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Somerset Record Society.

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VOL. XXVIII.

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# QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS

FOR THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

VOL. III.

COMMONWEALTH

1646-1660.

EDITED BY

THE REV. E. H. BATES HARBIN, M.A.

*Great Britain, Court of quarter sessions of the peace (Somerset County)*

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1912.



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The Council of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society has been approached with the view of transcribing and printing a manuscript volume of Sir William Pole's collections. Its

importance was pointed out by the late Mr. John Batten in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, vol. iv, art. 141, the particular value being "in the important and verified contributions to the genealogy and topography of the Western Counties." The matter is now under consideration.

The financial position of the Society is fairly satisfactory, as the number of subscribers remains fairly constant. To the list has been added the University of Göttingen.

E. H. BATES HARBIN.

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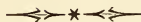
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## Introduction.

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THIS volume contains two classes of records. Firstly, the Orders of the Court, which are entered in Minute Book No. IV, extending from the Bridgwater (Michaelmas) Sessions, 1646, to the Wells (Epiphany) Sessions of 1655-6 inclusive. This portion was transcribed by Mr. A. J. Monday, who has rendered valuable assistance in this, as in the two preceding volumes. Secondly, a calendar of the Sessions Rolls Nos. 93 to 98 inclusive, which contain matters relating to the business of the Quarter Sessions from 1656 to the Wells Sessions of 1659-60. There is no Minute Book for the period 1656-1666, and the Sessions Rolls for 1660 and 1661 are very scanty.

The contents of the Sessions Rolls for the Commonwealth period are less interesting than those of the earlier rolls, as they only contain the formal routine business of the justices, "Examinations, Informations, and Confessions," and do not include (with few exceptions) the original orders signed and sealed, private correspondence, and miscellaneous papers which added so much to the interest of the two earlier volumes of this series. On the other hand, owing to the closer supervision of the morals and political feeling of the populace, from page 285 onwards, a great deal of information is incidentally given on the points. The calendar, therefore, includes every document, even though they strictly belong to the criminal business of the Quarter Sessions with which the Orders are not concerned.

There are no records surviving, with a few exceptions, for the period 1639 to 1646, and their fate is only hinted at in the Minute Book: "Whereas the Records of this Court during the late combustions of warr in theis parts been many of them ymbezzled and cannot yet be found, and especially the said

recognizance . . . . " (p. 2). During the war the Records house at Wells was not disturbed, but a nearly total destruction befell the contemporary documents, including the Minute Book beginning with the Wells Sessions 1638-9. Of the three classes of documents : Recognizances, there survive for 1641 bundle 197, for 1642 bundles 198-201, for 1643 bundles 203-4, none for 1644-6, and one for 1647, besides some broken files ; Indictments, for 1642 January to July roll 80, for 1642-3 rolls 81, 82, none for 1644-5 and one for 1646 ; Sessions Rolls, for 1643-4, roll 79, containing sixteen informations, none for 1645 and 1646, and one for 1647. There is also a Commission of the Peace issued by the King from Oxford 31st Oct., 1643, which is given below ; the next Commission is dated 24th July, 1654. A considerable number of the Sessions Rolls for the Commonwealth period have been lost. There are none for 1647 after the Ilchester (Easter) Sessions, nor for any part of 1648, and considerable portions of 1658 and 1659 are also missing.

The routine of County government pursued its ordinary course until the Taunton (Midsummer) Sessions of 1642. Immediately after the Civil War began with the struggle between the Marquess of Hertford and the supporters of the Parliament in and round Shepton Mallett, and the first blood of the Civil War was shed in the skirmish at Marshal's Elm on the 4th August. The Marquess was obliged to shut himself up in Sherborne Castle. The siege was raised on 6th September, but after an attack on the retreating forces was repulsed at Babylon Hill, which overlooks Yeovil on the east, the Marquess surrendered the castle and marched to Dunster, where, not being able to get possession of the castle, he took his forces over to South Wales. With his departure Somersetshire was solid for the Parliament ; and it may be concluded that the county business would be carried on by those justices who upheld its policy. In the summer of 1643 the position of the parties was reversed. Hopton overthrew Lord Stamford at Stratton in Cornwall on the 16th May, and marching through Devonshire, joined Prince Maurice at Chard on the 4th June ; and in the next three days Bridgwater, Dunster, and Taunton were all seized for the King. From this date for two years the royalists were in the ascendant, and a Commission of the Peace was issued on



the 31st October, 1643. From Naseby, 14th June, 1645, Fairfax marched west to the relief of Taunton, and after some skirmishing in the neighbourhood of Crewkerne and Ilminster, destroyed Goring's army at Langport on the 10th July.<sup>1</sup> Bridgwater was surrendered by Colonel Edmund Wyndham 23rd July; Bath fell on the 30th, and Bristol in September; but Dunster, under Colonel Francis Wyndham, held out to the 19th April, 1646; after which date the royalists in the west were practically under heavy disabilities for fourteen years.

The county was evidently not considered sufficiently quieted down for ordinary civil government until the autumn, when the Quarter Sessions were held as usual at Bridgwater. As there are no Recognizances or Sessions Rolls for 1646, and only one Indictment Roll, it would appear that the justices had only recently taken up their magisterial duties. The several orders referring to the reparation of bridges and highways, the notice of the loss of the records, the lack of proper officers, and other business of a similar nature, show that these matters were receiving attention for the first time.

In Devonshire the county records for 1645 are very scanty, and at Epiphany and Easter, 1646, there are none. The Sessions were held as usual at Midsummer (Hamilton, R.H.A., *Q.S. Records*, 1878, p. 136). Robert Sprye, Solicitor to the County Commissioners for Devon, sent up on the 6th April, 1648, a list of papists and delinquents sequestered in North Devon since the happy reduction of the county to the obedience of Parliament in May, 1646 (*Cal. of Committee for Compounding, etc.*, 1643-60, Part I, p. 97).

#### MAGISTRACY.

With the temporary collapse of the King's authority in September, 1642, the royalist justices would be superseded. Some attended on the King at Oxford, and others joined the army, or like Sir John Stawell raised troops from their own resources. The next year witnessed a complete reversal.

<sup>1</sup> At the Taunton Sessions, 1649, two justices were desired to take into consideration what costs and charges John Flint hath been put unto by timber and other things wherewith he furnished the Lord General Fairfax for his better passage over Load bridge.

The Commission issued by King Charles at Oxford, 31st October, 1643, nominates, besides High Officers of State, \*Francis Lord Cottington (Godmanstone), \*Henry (Bouchier), Earl of Bath, \*John Lord Paulett (Hinton St. George), \*Ralph, Lord Hopton (Witham), \*Sir Thomas Malett, Justice of K.B. (Pointington), \*Sir John Paulett (Hinton St. George), \*John Coventry, Esq. (Pitminster), \*Sir William Portman, Bart. (Orchard Portman), \*Sir John Glanville, serjeant-at-law, \*Sir Charles Berkley (Bruton), \*Sir John Stowell (Cothelstone), \*Sir Ferdinand Gorges (Long Ashton<sup>1</sup>), \*Sir John Windham (Orchard Windham), \*Sir Henry Berkley (Yarlington), \*Sir Edward Rodney (Stoke Rodney), Sir Francis Doddington (Dodington), Sir Edward Berkley (Pylle), Sir Thomas Bridges (Keynsham), \*Sir Francis Hawley (Mynchin Buckland), Knights, Francis Paulett (Hinton St. George), Edmund Windham (Kentsford), Roger Newbrough (Berkley), \*Edward Phillips (Montacute), \*John Symes (Poundisford), \*William Walrond (Isle Brewers), \*William Bassett (Claverton), \*Edward Kirton (Castle Cary), \*George Paulett (*qu.* Goathurst), \*John Merrifield (Crewkerne), \*Abraham Burwell (Burrell), near Glastonbury, George Trevilian (Nettlecombe), William Bull (Shapwick), Richard Browne (Backwell), John Baber (Newton St. Loe), Thomas Pym (*qu.*)<sup>2</sup> Edward Dyer (Sharpham Park), John Bourne (Winscombe), Richard Morgan (Easton in Gordano), \*Francis Windham (Kentsford), George Speake (Whitelackington), Samuel Gorges (Wraxall), Edward Bisse, junior (Spargrove), John Teynte (Chelvey), and Edward Wykes (Wells), Esquires.<sup>3</sup>

There is only one Session Roll of this period, No. 79, which contains sixteen informations from 25th January, 1643-4, to April, 1644. The tenth information concerns a charge of sheep stealing at Batcombe, when one witness traced the steps of another through the snow, which was very deep on the 17th January, and another witness was carrying potato rootes to a woman at Batcombe Lodge.

The next Commission is issued by Oliver, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the

<sup>1</sup> *D.N.B.*, xxii, 243; Collinson, ii, 293.

<sup>2</sup> The parchment very illegible.

<sup>3</sup> The residence is added; the \* denotes a member of the quorum.

dominions thereto belonging, witnessed at Westminster, 24th July, 1654. It is written throughout in English, and has a fragment of the great seal attached. Besides the high officers of state and judicial functions, it enumerates \*Sir Thomas Wroth (Newton in North Petherton), \*Sir John Horner (Mells), \*Sir Henry Vane the younger, knights, \*Lislebone Long, one of the Masters of Requests (Stratton on the Fosse), \*Alexander Popham (Sherston in North Petherton), \*John Harrington (Kelston), \*Roger Hill of Poundsford, \*John Ashe (Beckington), \*Thomas Cox, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> \*John Okey, \*John Pyne (Curry Mallet), \*William Fry (Varty in Membury, co. Devon), \*John Hippiisley (Stone Easton), \*John Buckland (West Harptree), \*George Luttrell (Dunster), \*Alexander Pym (Brymore), \*John Palmer,<sup>2</sup> M.D. (Taunton), \*George Searle (Taunton), \*William Carrant (Toomer in Henstridge), \*Richard Jones (Stowey near Bristol), \*William Cole (Nailsea), \*Vincent Gookyn, \*Thomas Siderfin (Luxborough), \*Giles Strangwaies (Charlton Adam), \*Edward Ceely (Charlton in Creech St. Michael), \*Thomas Pride, \*Henry Bonner (Waston in Combe St. Nicholas), \*Robert Blake, \*John Turberville (Gaulden in Tolland), \*Francis Swanton (Wincanton), \*John Cary of Castle Cary, \*John Harrington the younger (Kelston), Thomas Francis (*qu.* Combe Florey), \*Thomas English (Puddimore Milton), Richard Bovet (Wellington), William Gutherick, Robert Hunt (Compton Pauncefoot), Robert Long (Stratton on the Fosse), John Barker the younger (High Ham), George Sampson the younger (Middle Lambrooke), John Gay, John Gutch (Glastonbury), William Smith (Wells), Thomas Blackbourne (Wells), John Gorges (Taunton), Thomas Gorges (Taunton), and Charles Steyninges (Holnicote in Selworthy), Esquires.

Ten individuals never sat at the Quarter Sessions or took any part in magisterial business.

The following, twenty-one in number, had acted previous to this Commission, but were not included, either by reason of their demise or because they were not acceptable to the Government.

<sup>1</sup> Of Warwick Lane, London, Browne, *Somerset Wills*, ii, 75. \* Quorum.

<sup>2</sup> *Cal. of Committee for Compounding*, pt. i, p. 150.

Edward Baber (Chew Magna), William Capell (Wrington), John Carew (Camerton), William Ceely (North Curry), Richard Cole (Nailsea), George Farwell (Bishops Hull), Robert Gough (Merriott), Henry Henley (Leigh in Winsham), William Hilliard (Ilminster), Thomas Hodges (Wedmore), Marmaduke Jennings (Curry Rivel), Thomas Latch (Over Langford in Churchill), George Millard the elder, Robert Morgan (Wells), John Newton (East Harptree), Edward Popham (Huntworth), John Preston (Cricket St. Thomas), William Prynne (Swainswick), Sir Henry Rolle (Shapwick), William Strode (Barrington), John Whitby (Mudford).

The following were evidently added in later Commissions as they are found exercising magisterial functions: Thomas Baynard (Wrington), Thomas Currey (Misterton), John Desborough (Major-General in charge of the western counties 1655), Peter Roynon (West Harptree), Edward Sealy (Bridgwater), William Whiting (Wells), William Wyndham (Orchard Wyndham), William Bacon (Mansel in North Petherton), Thomas Mead (Wells), George Smith, Robert Smith the elder (Frome), David Slocombe, Benjamin Tibbott, Francis Rolle (Shapwick), Nicholas Blake (Old Cleeve), William Pitman (Castle Cary), Benjamin Blake (Bridgwater), Tristram Wood (Ilchester), Hugh Gunston (Taunton).

The following seals with the impaled or quartered coats may fill up gaps in the county armory.

Barker, barry of ten, over all a bend (*S.R.*, 92, 10). Baynard, quarterly, 1 and 4, a fesse between 2 chevrons; 2 and 3, a two-headed eagle (*S.R.*, 96, i, 9). Bonner, a crescent within an orle of martlets. Bovett, checquy, a chief, imp. a bend checquy. Crest, a star within a crescent (*S.R.*, 90, 79). Cary, on a bend, 3 roses. Cox, a chevron erm., between 3 cocks' heads (*S.R.*, 82, i, 19). Gorges, John, lozengy, a chevron charged with a crescent, imp. 3 mullets in pale. Gutch, a fesse charged with a lion passant, between 3 boars' heads (*S.R.*, 94, 15). Hippisley, John, quarterly, 1 and 4, Hippisley, 2 and 3, a fesse cotised within a bordure engrailed (*S.R.*, 94, 19). Morgan, Robert, three cross-crosets in bend, a canton sinister (*S.R.*, 83, i, 7). Sampson, a cross bottonny between 4 escallops (*S.R.*, 89, 13). Sealy, Edward, a fesse between 3 wolves' heads.



The 1654 Commission contained forty-seven names as against 59 in that of 1625<sup>1</sup> (*S.R.S.*, xxiv, p. xviii), and the attendance at Quarter Sessions shows a corresponding falling off, the average being only nine as against twelve in the reign of Charles I. and fourteen in James I. As usual the bulk of the business was done by some six or ten justices. About one-third belonged to the landed gentry, the remainder being taken from the class of merchants and tradespeople, living either in the towns or on their property in the country districts.

The acting justices were not acceptable to the people and their authority was often called in question. Hugh Weech of Pilton used contemptuous words, calling the justices "fig-pickers and hedge justices" (p. 350). The family of Austin were a thorn in the side of those resident near Glastonbury. On hearing a declaration of the Lord Protector read in public, Samuel Austin said, "for my part I will not believe a word he saith"; and "that he would never submit to or take off his hat to any justice of peace, and that the justice had no commission to be a justice but a warrant at large only" (p. 346). When Samuel was brought before Mr. Gutch to answer certain misdemeanors, his brother John did maliciously interrupt the justice in his discourse, with a loud voice bidding him speak the truth, intimating the justice had spoken a lie (p. 350).

The office of Custos Rotulorum was filled by Alexander Popham, who is described as Keeper of the Rolls of the County at the Wells Sessions, 1653-4.

There is no record of any appointment to the office of the Clerk of the Peace, held in 1638, by Christopher Brown of West Coker. A copy of an order made at Wells Sessions 1649-50, is signed by Pester and Haggatt (*S.R.*, 81, 4); and the name of John Haggatt, "Clerk of the Peace," appears in an order made at Taunton, 1651. At Wells, 1655-6, a copy of an order is signed by Thomas Yeamans, deputy to the clerk of the peace; and he seems to have succeeded to the office by Taunton Sessions, 1659; but his tenure was probably cut short the next year.

The following list of sheriffs, taken from the P.R.O. *Lists and*

<sup>1</sup> The Herald's Visitation of 1623 included 202 families, so the Commission was kept very select.

*Indexes*, No. IX, though not quite complete, will fill up many gaps in earlier authorities. The date given is that of appointment or of commencing account—

1625. Sir Robert Phillipps.	1643. Maurice Barrow.
1626. John Symes.	1644. Sir John Horner.
1627. John Latch.	1645.
1628. Sir John Stawell.	1646. Richard Cole.
1629. Sir Thomas Thynne.	1647. John Preston.
1630. Sir Francis Doddington.	1648. John Buckland.
1631. Thomas Luttrell.	1649. Henry Bonner.
1632. William Walrond.	1650. Alexander Pymme.
1633. John Carew.	1651. Edward Ceely.
1634. Henry Hodges.	1652. George Luttrell.
1635. William Walrond.	1653. William Cole.
1636. William Bassett.	1654. Robert Hunt.
1637. Sir Will. Portman, Bt.	1655.
1638. William Everye.	1656. William Hillyard.
1639. Sir Thos. Wrothe.	1657.
1640. John Hippisley.	1658.
1641.	1659. William Lacye.
1642.	1660. William Helyar.

#### BUSINESS AT QUARTER SESSIONS.

The following table shows the attendance at the different meeting places:—

	1646	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	'56
Wells ... ..	—	9	9	9	5	6	9	9	11	—	18
Ilchester ... ..	—	8	7	9	9	8	9	9	9	11	—
Taunton ... ..	—	7	8	7	10	10	5	12	14	9	—
Bridgwater... ..	12	9	4	11	15	11	13	16	11	12	—
Average, 9½ ...	—	8	7	9	10	9	9	12	11	11	—

The Taunton Sessions were held in 1652 and after at the Castle ; and the grand jury then considered “the Castle Hall near Taunton to be the fittest place within this County for the honourable judges and others to meet for the service of the Commonwealth

at the Assizes, being a place time out of mind made use of for that service." (S.R., 84, 4.)

At their first meeting the Justices found themselves confronted with a two-fold difficulty. On the one hand the ordinary county expenses were much increased. The roads and bridges had been let down or destroyed by military operations and lack of proper supervision. The gaol and the three Houses of Correction were in more than their usual state of dilapidation ; and the same remark applies to the different hospitals or alms-houses which used to be helped from the hospital money fund. Maimed soldiers, and the widows and orphans, abounded on every side. In addition heavy levies were demanded for paying off the debts incurred by the State and providing the armies to be raised for Scotland and Ireland. On the other hand, the paying power of the County was much diminished. Few districts can have seen more of hostile armies, and the flocks and herds of the countryside had been consumed. Without oxen the land could not be cultivated, and the farmers could pay neither rents nor rates.<sup>1</sup> Even when rents, or a portion, were forthcoming, the royalist landowner had to send them to London to discharge the fines levied for his malignancy. For some years the financial difficulty was always present and acute.

For the purpose of looking after the collection of fines, and letting or sale of lands confiscated from royalists Parliament directed the formation of County Committees, who had, or certainly exercised, powers likely to clash with those of the Quarter Sessions. By the few references to them in the text it will be seen that they ordered the poor of Taunton to avoid Hestercombe House, probably with the intention of getting a tenant for it ; and placed Henry Gander in the office of bailiff of Stone and Catsash Hundreds instead of John Mogg, whose politics were not so satisfactory. But the record of their proceedings is to be found in the State Papers of the period. As there were unlimited opportunities for enriching themselves and their friends, a place on the Committee was much desired. John Buckland, Richard Jones, Latimer Sampson, Thomas Shute, and Benjamin Mason were appointed County sequestrators on 18th February, 1649-50.

<sup>1</sup> Two petitions will be found under " War and Politics."



Mason was much opposed at the time. On 4th April, 1650, William Ceely, Thomas Latch, John Gorges, John Cary, Richard Bovett, George Sampson junior, James Pearce, assistant, were recommended to be Sequestration Commissioners for the County. [*Calendar of Committee for Compounding*, 1643-60, vol. i, 173, 194.] The proceedings of Edward Curle, an underling of the Committee, will be found in two papers contributed by Mr. John Batten to the *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Arch. Soc.*, vols. iv and xvi. The Bench at Ilchester Sessions 1648 decided that his complaint, made at the last assizes, was frivolous and vain, but that he might have warrants to summon the persons complained of if he be so minded (p. 63).

As regards the maimed soldiers, some relief was found by striking off the list all those who had shown royalist leanings, and by very strict and personal examination of their wounds to see how far the disablement was permanent. Wounds in the extremities followed by amputations gave the best chance of recovery, to be followed by a life of beggary; but body wounds or serious sickness must have been generally fatal to all except the commanders.

The Bridewell at Ilchester, which was practically under the same roof as the gaol, had been fortified by the royalists, but was abandoned and set on fire when Fairfax advanced against Goring in July, 1645. The inhabitants quenched the fire,<sup>1</sup> but the inmates must have recovered their freedom. All the buildings were more or less dilapidated as well at Taunton and Shepton Mallett. The pump at the gaol was put in order as the prisoners were put to great trouble for want of water. Also Mr. Gaylard, who had voluntarily preached to them on the Sabbath, received a honorarium "he being somewhat necessitated"; and Mr. Powell was appointed to preach at a salary of 4*li.* the half year. This would seem to be the first glimmer of an idea that prisoners required something more than safe custody; as would also the petition of the inhabitants of Pensford that Elizabeth Howell, lately sent to the House of Correction, might be discharged as she hath endured sufficient chastisement. But they ingenuously added that in her absence the child left behind was somewhat

<sup>1</sup> *Som. Arch. Soc. Proc.*, xxxvii, ii, 74.

chargeable to the parish. [*S.R.*, 90, 7. Petition to Bridgwater Sessions, 1654.] The Bridewells were still continued as asylums; Dorothy Cole was to remain in the House of Correction at Taunton till further order being a lunatick. [*S.R.*, 89, i; Kalendar of prisoners in gaol.] The governor then obtained recompense for looking after certain prisoners "whose bodies were very feeble."

It was very difficult to get suitable persons to serve the multitudinous offices in hundred, parish, and tithing, for, as will be shown under "Social Life," the duties could only be carried out by strong active men able to hold their own in rough-and-tumble affairs. They naturally were very violent at times themselves. Articles of misdemeanour were exhibited against William Gregory of Bedminster, bailiff, who by virtue of a warrant seized Thomas Horwood, striking him several times with his sword, and then dragged him on the ground by the heels more than a coytes throw, and kept him prisoner. [*S.R.*, 83, i, 34, 1651.] The constables of Somerton woke up Edward Millington at four in the morning on the Lord's Day, being much distempered with drink, and pretending a search warrant made a great disturbance, and drank three jugs of beer before they went away (p. 348).

John Trott of Otterford made a statement to the effect that on Wednesday, 29th January, 1650-1, "which was the day before the day of Thanksgiving," he was in the watch and ward in a place called Woodend where the usual watch and ward is kept for that parish between seven and eleven, when by reason of the coldness of the weather he went home. He knew nothing about the loss of sheep from a farm near at hand, nor had he ever goose or gander boyled, roasted, or spent in his house in all his lifetime. This statement was in direct opposition to the sworn testimony of several neighbours. [*S.R.*, 83, ii, 66-71.] George Barrett of Fiddington also deposed that while he was watchman there, the tithingman carried him to an alehouse and kept him there until the evening, so that no watch was kept (p. 360).

Some people were objected to because of their malignancy, and others because it was considered that their trades were those that most required looking after.

Owing to the difficulty of dealing with wandering criminals, the Bench at Ilchester 1651 appointed Ralph Mullens of Sherborne

"to have the reputation of a marshall" for apprehending rogues, vagabonds, and suspicious persons. But the experiment could not have been satisfactory, as at the Taunton Sessions 1652 all power and authority given to Ralph Mullens to be a marshall was declared to be void and null (pp. 147, 187).

An additional difficulty in carrying out magisterial orders was the prevalence of forged warrants, licences, passes and briefs. The most serious case is that of George Derby, who procured a quire of warrants to be printed in the name of Robert Hunt, Esq., sheriff of Somerset, and two seals of office to be cut; and warrants with forged signatures and sealshave been issued out for execution (p. 296). It is openly stated in a deposition that "Mr. John Ball, schoolmaster, of Bath, doth usually make passes for Irish people." [*S.R.*, 81, 66; his defence, 71.]

With all these difficulties the Justices carried on the high tradition of English judicial action. Their labours will be exemplified again and again in the following paragraphs. Since preaching was then considered the universal panacea for all evils, it is not surprising that John Ashe and other justices delivered a lecture to Edward Pearce and George Webb at Wells 1651-2 (p. 166). "We found that there was much malice and grave differences and contentions in law between the parties, and that this complaint was the sad effects of those malicious contentions, and upon no other ground or for any other cause prosecuted; upon which we gave them our advice and counsel to desist from those ways of strife and contention, and to live peaceably as neighbours and Christians ought to do."

#### WAR AND POLITICS.

When the County records begin again, the civil war in England was over, and the references are to maimed soldiers and widows of those slain in the Parliament's service, to bridges and roads broken down and destroyed in the marchings of opposing forces, to the destruction of churches and houses in siege operations. The news of the campaigns of Cromwell in Scotland and Ireland filtered through in very distorted and inaccurate forms, and the work of the Navy under Blake was represented like the triumphs of Rome, in the appearance of unfortunate

captives, who were distributed in the county (p. 315). But the royalist spirit was very far from being quenched, and the authorities were perpetually on the watch for manifestations of an outbreak; though it principally took the form of drinking the health of the King, and in outspoken contempt of the Lord Protector, and of the Parliament, when there was one.

A petition, not dated, but found in *S.R.*, vol. 80, No. 35, which contains papers for Ilchester Sessions 1647, shows the feeling of the county generally with regard to financial burdens imposed by the war. It is addressed:—

“To the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lords and Commons assembled in the High Court of Parliament, The humble petition of the inhabitants of the County of Somerset humbly sheweth—That your petitioners for divers years last past have undergone most heavy pressures and burthens by free quartering of soldiers, and of late by free quartering of many of the British Army designed for Ireland and other parts, towards whose quartering contributions for certain months was by Parliament allotted to be paid (which has not been done), and now all sorts of corn and grain being at such an excessive rate your petitioners are unable to subsist unless relieved.” Signed by seventeen persons.

At the Wells Sessions, 1646–7, Clement Caswell petitioned the Court that he might be relieved of the weekly payment for his illegitimate children, because in the last three years he had suffered insupportable losses by plundering and free quarter, and otherwise being very much impoverished (p. 14). At the Wells Sessions, 1652–3, the Court informed the Authorities in London that several of the Justices then present could of their own knowledge certify of the correctness of the petition of the Minister and chiefest inhabitants of Bedminster, that in September, 1645, their parish church was, by soldiers under the command of Prince Rupert, burned down, and at the same time a great number of their houses were likewise burned by the same soldiers, so they might be empowered to collect money for the reparation thereof (p. 202). At the Taunton Sessions, 1650, an order was made that the poor people of Bridgwater who, because their houses were fired in West Street, North Street, and other streets, by the soldiers under the command of Colonel Wyndham



then Governor (in 1645), were obliged to reside in Wembdon, should now return to their former abodes (pp. 126, 135).

It was probably the same cause that turned Hestercombe House into a residence for the poor people of Taunton St. James. Finding themselves comfortable they refused to obey an order of the County Committee of 16th December, 1646, speedily to remove into their parishes where they formerly dwelt, and an order of the Wells Sessions 1646-7 was not more heeded, nor another at Bridgwater, 1648. At Ilchester, 1649, an order was made that any poor person refusing to obey should forthwith be sent to the common gaol (pp. 15, 85). James Pearce of Taunton St. James petitioned the Court at Taunton, 1656, to have a licence for his new house, the old one having been burnt down in the time of war by soldiers (p. 319). A poor man, formerly resident in St. Margaret's Almshouse at Taunton, petitioned for readmission, having been ejected by the soldiers in the time of the siege (p. 201).

During the march of King Charles with his army from Oxford to the West in the summer of 1644, an old castellated building called Woodhouse on the Wiltshire border, which had fallen to the Parliament forces, was retaken by Sir Francis Doddington, when twelve prisoners, most of them clothiers, were hanged on one tree.<sup>1</sup> Symonds records that the garrison consisted of sixty-six rebels. This was evidently considered contrary to the usages of war, as Alice Galloway received relief at Ilchester, 1653, because her husband was murdered at Woodhouse in the service of the Parliament (p. 208). She also received a further and final contribution at Wells, 1656-7; as did also Alice Moore, whose husband was killed in the late war at Woodhouse (pp. 208, 315), "but she is not to come for or expect any further relief from this Court."

In the spring of 1645 Sir Richard Grenville was bringing up his forces from Devonshire to the siege of Taunton, and found on his way that Wellington House was held by Colonel Richard Bovett for the Parliament. While he was viewing the ground, a musket discharged from a window shot him in the thigh and

<sup>1</sup> Murray's *Handbook to Wilts.*; Symond's *Diary*, pp. 32, 35; Rev. D. D. Daniell, *History of Warminster*, pp. 65-7.

put him *hors de combat* for some months. His command devolved on Sir John Berkeley, afterwards Lord Berkeley of Stratton, who in a few days put the business in very good order, and by storm took Wellington House early in the month of April. (*Clarendon*, Book IX.) Some of the townspeople had placed their goods in the house for safety. A certificate was given by Richard Bovett and Alexander Popham on the 19th October, 1650, that Anne Martyn of Wellington, widow, suffered loss of cattle and household goods to the value of 175*l.* besides 22*l.* in money and the loss of her eldest son, they all being in the house of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Alexander Popham at the siege thereof by the late king's forces. (*S.R.*, 82, i, 14.) At Taunton, 1655, she was allowed ten shillings for the present, and at Taunton, 1556, twenty shillings for the present. Mary (Maud) Cape petitioned at Bridgwater, 1646, for maintenance for herself and children, as her husband had been slain at Wellington House in the State's service (p. 5). Eventually the parish of Wellington was ordered to pay her a weekly allowance of one shilling; and she continued to petition and to receive small sums for several years. At the Wells Sessions, 1647-8, the widow Hickman of Wellington, whose husband was slain in the Parliament service, was allowed twenty shillings for present relief and to take her home again (p. 53).

The only reference to the long siege of Dunster castle is contained in a complaint laid by William Sweet, constable of Milverton, before Thomas Gorges, 19th August, 1650. Having received a warrant from the commissioners of militia to impress persons for the demolishment of Dunster castle, he very imprudently tried to obtain the services of Robert Smale when he was in drink; and in return Smale and his friends nearly murdered the constable and his assistant. [*S.R.*, 82, i, 54.]

From exhaustion and doubt as to what would be the end of the negotiations between the King and the Parliament, the county remained quiet until the execution of Charles I., on the 30th January, 1648-9; but from that date there was a sullen mass of discontent and dislike which showed itself in many ways, none the less serious because for the time it was powerless to make itself felt.

On the 9th July, 1649, Anthony Applebye of North Curry,

said that Simon Basse, the gunsmith of Bridgwater, came to his house, and being demanded what news he heard made answer that he heard there had been a fight between the Scotts and the Lord Generall, and that at first the Generall had the best of it, but afterwards was worsted. [*S.R.*, 81, 49.] This news was altogether wrong as there was no fighting in progress against the Scots, and Cromwell was preparing for his terrible campaign in Ireland.

The Council of State sent a circular to the Sheriffs warning them of the malignity of many men's spirits, who have meetings at horse races, fairs, etc., under pretence of recreations where their designs are laid, and their mischief prepared for a sudden breaking out (State Papers, 1649-50, p. 68; 3rd April, 1649). And on 31st July, 1649, from the same Council to Sir Thomas Wroth, Colonel Alexander Popham and Colonel John Pyne: We have thought it necessary for greater security, that some regiments of voluntary horse, foot, and dragoons be raised, only to receive pay when on actual service, and only to be employed on special occasions. We have received from Sir Hardress Waller the list enclosed, and desire your opinion whether you approve of those named as officers under you; if you do, we will order their commissions; Whitehall, 31st July, 1649. (Same vol., p. 256.) On the 19th September, the Council warned the Justices of Peace and Committees of Counties that they had daily intelligence that the old malignants strongly endeavour to carry on the interests of Charles Stuart. [*Ibid.*, 314.] In the same volume there is a paper of directions from Charles II. to Sir John Paulet, Col. Francis Windham, and Col. Robert Phelippes, employed for raising forces for the service in Hants, Somerset, Dorset, and Wilts respectively. Also commissions to them to be commanders-in-chief of the said forces; 20th October, 1649.

On the 3rd November, 1649, Humfrie Butler, "as he calleth himself," in the house of William Dericke of Wells, did urge several times to drink the King's health, and because those present would not pledge the same, quarrelled with them, and did swear eight several oaths. Moreover in the market place he said with a loud voice "All you that are Cavaliers come along with me." [*S.R.*, 81, 69, 73.] In the same city on 23rd



November, John Gaik was at supper at the Flower de Luce with Robert Allen and Peter Sandford. "And before supper was ended they fell into some discourse concerning doctor Burge that he was going to take down the Chapter House; Sandford said that they had done greater things than that, for they had put the King to death. Allen replied that the King had a fair trial for his life, when Sandford said he was tried by a company of rogues, and so were all those that did take their part. And because Gaik and Allen spoke on behalf of the Parliament, Sandford replied that he could find in his heart to throw the jug in their faces, so they came away." [S.R., 81, 73.] On the 7th November, at Somerton, Thomas Jones of Kingsbury, while drinking with Thomas Baker of Lambrooke, voluntarily said with a curse three several times, a plague split the Parliament. [S.R., 81, 61.]

Samuel Andrews, innkeeper and tythingman of Meare, had considerable difficulty in giving a satisfactory explanation concerning arms and armour of various kinds found in his house when examined before Thomas Latch, 23rd May, 1650; though he denied that he had ever heard John Warman say "there were five men to one that were and would be listed against the present Government." [S.R., 82, ii, 13, 15.] On the 10th June, William Brown had to acknowledge to John Pyne that he had said he would hang all the roundheads for twelve pence a piece, and that he did once hang an honest soldier of the Parliament for ten shillings in the time of the troubles at the siege of Exeter. [S.R., 82, ii, 24.] On the same day John Hixe of Stawell told a long-winded story how in the time when Edmund Wyndham was governor of Bridgwater for the late King, he was brought before him on a warrant which, as he afterwards learned from George Thomas, was issued because he had given information to Colonel Blake about concealed arms. About a month since the wife of the said Thomas told Hixe that her husband said "A time of revenge was coming"; whereupon he asked Thomas what he meant; who replied that he hoped to be shortly avenged upon Hixe, and then anticipated that date by wounding him in the head with a bill-hook. [S.R., 82, ii, 41.]

Thos. Furze of West Hatch, limeburner, spoke to Christopher Rowswell on 5th April, 1650, against taking the covenant,

saying that only whoresbirds would take it or enforce others; and that if the Lord Fairfax and Lieutenant General Cromwell were burning together in his limekiln he would keep them in with his iron bar until they were burned to ashes. [*S.R.*, 82, ii, 80.] An information was laid before Thomas Gorges, 24th August, 1650, that Richard Churley took the horne of a lanthorne and put it in his hat and said that it was Cromwell's collars and did wear it several days. Also a carpenter at work at Mr. Lancaster's of Milverton, said he would not make a pig's yoke but would make a gag for Cromwell. [*S.R.*, 82, i, 55.]

Richard Westover deposed before John Pyne, 11th July, 1650, that being at the tavern of Mr. Carpenter, in Taunton, when certain of the company understood that he had taken the Engagement, they shouted at him going down the stairs "an Engagement man!" and said they were all knaves that took the Engagement, that had taken the Covenant. [*S.R.*, 82, i, 62.]

Elizabeth Drake of Crewkerne laid an information before Henry Bonner, 14th April, 1651; that upon discourse she asked of Sarah Hallett what news there was, to which she answered that there was good news now for that Cromwell's army in Scotland was most of all killed, and in the pursuit of them the Scotts did kill them with bows and arrows. And farther she said there was a press to last for one year, but she did think that it would not last for long, for if the towns' men were pressed away the townes men had consented together to pull down all the out houses, because they should not receive letters. And farther she said that the Prince had sent to the Parliament to know whether they would yield unto his right, if not, then he would have it by force. [*S.R.*, 82, ii, 27.]

Will. Stone of Cannington deposed before William Ceely, J.P., on 16th March, 1650 (1), that the day before he fell in with certain Wiltshire men on the road, one of whom, Martyn Everard, told him "that Amsterdam was drowned, and that 100,000 and more of men, women and children, Brownists and Anabaptists were drowned in it by the breaking in of the sea, which was a just judgement that God had brought upon them for they had undone the King and this kingdom by their practizes. And further that the King had now in Scylly such an army that all the forces the Parliament have could not keep them out of

Cornwall. And wished that where the King had one friend in Cornwall he had a hundred. The informant replied unto the said Everard and said that he had heard that one Blake was coming towards the Isle of Scylly to keep them in the island from coming forth." Then Everard answered and wished "the devill take Blake, it is not he nor all the ships the Parliament have can keep them in; and the Parliament would very shortly have bad news out of Scotland and such as they little thought of, and the Parliament for giving the Engagement had made a rod for their own tails, and he cursed all that ever did or would fight for the Parliament for his parte." [S.R., 83, ii, 54.] Everard being charged allowed the Amsterdam news, but denied the rest of the conversation (55).

About this time John Rodd of Chilton Cantelo said all the Parliament were rogues, cobblers, and tinkers, and so were the army. [S.R., 83, ii, 20.] John Sawser of Bishops Lydiard said the governors of the kingdom were no others than dishmakers, tinkers, and cobblers, about the time when the King of Scotland invaded this Commonwealth, and the militia of this country were required to advance against the enemies thereof. [S.R., 83, i, 64.] A company, on the 24th August, 1651, in the house of Thomas Gallopp of Blagdon, contained "some known to be very malignant" who began to drink the King's health, and one affirmed to divers (speaking of the King's coming to Worcester) that Colonel Massey dined in Gloucester the Sunday before, and he would lay forty shillings the King's party would be in Bristol within four days after. [S.R., 83, i, 69.]

On the 29th September, 1651, John Baylye of Shoreditch, near Taunton, did at Burrow offer to drink a health to King Charles saying, who will pledge King Charles his health? [S.R., 83, i, 57.]

There is no reference to the King's flight after Worcester, nor of the efforts made to discover his whereabouts.

Ambrose and Henry Clark of Charlton Mackrell, blacksmiths, deposed before Giles Strangways, on 13th September, 1653, that they went to Kingweston the last Lord's Day, being then the wonted revel or wake day, and did strike William Masters for abusing Henry, and not for speaking against the late Queen. William Masters of Charlton Adam, soldier, said that because

he refused to drink the Queen's health unless she was a good Queen, Henry Clarke abused him, and in spite of his brother's efforts to keep the peace for fear the business might bring trouble, pulled him away from the table in the alehouse and beat him, they having been soldiers on opposite sides in the late war. [S.R., 86, i, 25, 28, 29.]

In the Kalendar of prisoners at the Bridgwater Session, 1653, is the name of William Kellway, committed and to be further examined for having a hand in the Dorsetshire plot. [S.R., 88, 3.] In the Kalendar for Bridgwater, 1654, John Maynwaring, late of Cornwall, was fined 10*li.* and to remain in the gaol until he should find sureties. The charges against him were that he had said he had formerly been at Crewkerne, commanding a regiment of horse for the King, and did think it would not be long before he should be there as before, and he did hope the King would in some short time be restored again to his crown. [S.R., 89, 3.] These symptoms of the ceaseless plotting of the royalists culminated in the forlorn hope of Penruddocke and Grove at Salisbury, in March 1654-5, when they seized the judges and proclaimed Charles II. Not being supported they endeavoured to make their way into Cornwall, which was reported to be in arms for the King. The number and value of these reports may be judged by the foregoing specimens. The party were captured at South Molton on 14th March; and the two leaders were beheaded at Exeter, on 16th May, 1655. Ann Box of Breane, informed William Smith on 13th August, 1655, that Thomas Brown of that place, husbandman, in a short time after the late insurrection at Salisbury, did say it was 40*li.* out of his way that the army had not come on or proceeded. And that if they had proceeded accordingly, he, the said Brown, would not have left William Thorne and Henry Nibb worth a groat; and that he would hew his mother-in-law and his wife to pieces with divers others of the same parish. [S.R., 91, 77.] And on 2nd July, 1655, Thomas Siderfin was informed that on Wednesday, 6th June, Thomas Dob of Dulverton, and one Ann Whitt, having conference about the prisoners that were in Exeter that rose in rebellion against my Lord Protector and the Commonwealth, Dob said that he was a cavalier and would die a cavalier, and that he did not care for my Lord Protector, nor for his justices of the peace. [S.R., 90, 88.]



A petition was presented (probably at Wells, 1656-7) by Richard Waight of Bruton, complaining that he had received a prisoner (being one of many poor prisoners taken about 17th April last at sea by General Blake, and by Major Jenkins sent to Bruton to be placed abroad to service), by which he had been put to great charges over and above the weekly allowance (p. 315).<sup>1</sup>

An action of the Government that must have tended to keep alive hostility was the refusal to extend to any person who had been in arms against the Parliament the benefit of the Act of Oblivion and General Pardon, so that they might be capable of the office of constable and tythingman. This decision bore very hardly upon the penitent malignant, and also upon his neighbours in tything and hundred, who were in consequence obliged to serve these tiresome offices much oftener.

At Ilchester, 1652, the Court had to point out for the benefit of all concerned that a perusal of the Act did not afford any ground for such elections, and that William Walter was prohibited from being tythingman of Redlinch (p. 175).

John Andrews of Yarlington informed Mr. Gutch on 31st December, 1653, that "he being at a court leet, holden at Yarlington about Michaelmas last, he did acquaint the steward of the said leet that he had brought a proclamation lately published by the Lord Protector, desiring him to observe the same in choosing of officers for the publique service, which proclamation being openly read by the said steward, one Mr. Aymes *als.* Vigor stood up presently and openly said, 'Wee will have no new laws here.'" A sentiment that would have commended itself most heartily to my good old friend T. E. Rogers, the late squire of Yarlington.

In the summer of 1656 the hopes of the royalists seem to have revived, without any tangible reason. On the 27th May John Grove and Humphrey Coningsby of Bristol, merchants, in an inn at Dunster did drink one health to King Charles, and one other health to high Soram. The clerk may have taken this down incorrectly, but as it stands the word is mysterious (p. 299).

<sup>1</sup> The year is conjectural. On 4th April, 1655, Blake bombarded Tunis with satisfactory results. He was cruising off Spain the following spring.

John Grove was able to procure a certificate from the Mayor of Bristol that he had always been well affected to the Parliament, with details of his service (p. 318). James Luellin on his way to Lady Stawell's house at Low Ham with a letter told William Ody, an innkeeper, on the 28th June, that there is news now come that the Prince of Scotts is come in about Plymouth with great forces, and that he and everyone would be glad to get his own (p. 298). In September Richard Williams said that if he had a band of soldiers he would meet the Prince, and further that he would cut the throat of Thomas Cox, and if the times did turn he would not leave Cox and another worth a groat (p. 294). In December William Diggory drank a health to the King in these words: "Let us drink, let us sing, here's a health to our King, and it will never be well until we have one again." And on being asked whether he intended to be hanged, he quarrelled with others in the Black-boy Inn at Ashcott (p. 347). In the same year Leonard Churchouse revived against Mr. Henry Leister the old story "that the said Leister had killed a child while he was in the army and rosted it" (p. 291).

The death of the Lord Protector seems to have passed unnoticed, but the following year when Booth made a futile rising in Cheshire, people again discussed the prospects of a restoration. Near midsummer William Parsons expressed himself freely about the Parliament, and announced that the King would be here the next week (p. 368). Early in August John Slape of Thurloxton met five men on the road, who demanded of him whether he was for the King or for the Parliament, to which he replied: "What is that to any of you?" And nothing happened. On the 6th August, Richard Collins of Barwick told Giles Jordan, innkeeper, that he was a cavalier, and he would be a cavalier, and the devil take all them that would not be cavaliers (p. 370). In the same month Christopher There told Edward Ceely, J.P., that Richard Symes said it could never be well with the land without a head (to wit), the Prince Charles, and that he would lay ten pounds the Prince was King of England before Michaelmas (p. 371). Neither King nor country had many more months to wait.

## RELIGION.

The external history of religion in England during this period may be studied in Dr. Shaw's *Hist. of the English Church*, 1646-60; and for the county in the *Victoria County History*, Vol. II. Nearly all the justices were nominated to be elders in the "several classes for the present settling of the Presbyteral Government, 1648." [Shaw, II, 413-23.] But, owing to the possession of power by the Independents, which meant the army, the coercive, compulsive, or directive power of the classes over the parochial presbytery came to an end; and this form of church government suffered from the hostility or indifference of the general body of the laity. On this decay in some counties voluntary associations arose, among which may be reckoned Somerset. [Shaw, II, 162.] It would appear to have been a meeting of this association that George Keene threatened to destroy by firing the church of Lydeard St. Lawrence, with other offensive remarks for which he was very rightly bound over to the peace (p. 383).

Liberty of ministry and doctrine being thus tacitly permitted, the church not infrequently became the scene of very unseemly behaviour and wrangles.

At Taunton, 1654, a warrant was issued against the churchwardens of North Petherton, because they locked the doors of the church against Mr. Hand, who had been desired by several honest people to preach on the Lord's Day, and three hundred came together to hear him (p. 240).

On 29th August, 1652, the minister of Wookey being sick, Daniel Lewes, a soldier, being on an exposition upon the 106th Psalm, certain people came violently into the church, asked the preacher for his commission, used railing language, and fell to ringing the bells during the said exercise. Another witness deposed that he had seen those people talking outside with Mr. Goodwyn, a papist, who, as it is supposed, gave them his advice, and one Westwood said that they would soon ring him out. [S.R., 85, 42.]

In Wraxall Church on 25th July, 1652, Joseph Hayne, being a minister of the Word and lawfully authorized to preach, was in his sermon when Benjamin Bridger of Wraxall, gent., came in



a riotous manner with others, among whom was one he brought, as he said, to preach; and called out to Mr. Hayne with a loud voice these words: "Hold your tongue, sir, and come you down, that's no place for you, here's a gentleman to preach." Also at the time of Mr. Hayne's first prayer, the said Bridger, with great irreverence, walked up and down the south aisle of the church near the pulpit, his head at the time covered, 'huffing and puffing,' sometimes talking to himself, and sometimes to another man." [S.R., 85, 53.]

Nicholas Biake, of Dunster, gent., deposed on oath, 1st November, 1652, that the day before, he being in the church, enquired of Mr. Dunsterfield by what authority he did officiate; who replied, by delegation from Mr. Escott. The said Nicholas answered that Mr. Escott had no power without the Commissioners of the county. Then Henry Chapple suddenly struck in with some remarks reflecting on the honour of Captain Richard Bowers, and most part of the congregation being drawn together, did hear the uncivil words. [S.R., 85, 22.]

Differences about rival ministers were accompanied by disputes between lesser officials; as may be learnt from the information of Richard Gregory of Brewton, the parish clerk, taken upon oath before John Pyne, Esq., 19th April, 1652:

"Who being sworn saith that he hath supplied the office of parish clerk in the said towne of Brewton since the 3rd February, 1650 (1), as by consent of the inhabitants there under their hands doth appear; and therein he was never since disturbed until the Sabbath day last, the 18th of this instant; when one Edward Drew, formerly the clarke of the said towne, came unto this examinant, in the morning about an hour before divine service began, and asked him whether he had brought the books in place, and the hour glass too: and forbid the examinant of the place, and asked whether it was not fair and well, that he had given him leave so long to continue in the said place, claiming it to be his; and this examinant further saith that he was in the seate a little time before prayers began, and had hapsed the doore without, and bolted him within, at which time the said Edward Drew came and opened the door of the said seat, and sat down by this examinant and according to the usual manner this examinant named the chapter, and began to read before the said Drew,

who stood up to do the same, and after this examinant had read about 3 or 4 verses, there came unto him Thomas Stacye, one of the churchwardens, and asked this examinant why he made such disturbance in the church, and bid him give off, whereupon this examinant was silent, and the said Drew went on performing the said place as clarke." [S.R., 84, 60.]

Disturbances, as regarding the ministry, were also raised about the doctrine preached.

Evidence was given to Sir Thomas Wroth on 17th August, 1649, that Christopher Theare came into the church at Huntspill and sat near the pulpit with his hat on his head. When Mr. Walrond asked him if that was a reverend gesture to be used in the house of God in the ordinance of prayer, he replied that he knew not that prayer was an ordinance of God, nor that the church was any more the house of God than any other common house, and so continued with his hat on till the sermon was ended. Then he began to argue with Mr. Savage the minister about the meaning of a text quoted in his sermon. Upon being rebuked a second time and told that his carriage in the time of preaching and praying was not allowed by the Parliament, he replied that he did not reckon of the Parliament or of the ordinances. And further said that the ministry of England were the ministers of the pope. [S.R., 81, 94.]

Robert Washfield of Brislington came into the church of Keynsham on the Lord's Day (9th Sept., 1655), and turning himself to the congregation said "I charge you in the name of the Lord to leave off your false worship." Then addressing Mr. Fossett the preacher and Mr. Codrington the minister of the parish, he charged them in the name of the Lord to leave off seducing the people, adding many more words to the same effect. [S.R., 91, 52.] Benjamin Mansell of Shepton Mallet persisted in sitting in church with his hat on during the sermon; and then entered into a doctrinal wrangle with the minister because he had limited the Holy Spirit by speaking by an hour glass, to the great disturbance of the congregation (p. 291).

When George Hicks came into Croscombe church with his hat on and spoke very loudly and irreverently about the denial of baptism to his grandchild, the minister responded very smartly

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that "this conduct did no way savour of wisdom or of the fear of the Lord" (p. 379).

Another minister, Mr. Carpenter of Nailsea, seized the interrupter of his discourse and pulled him out of the church; but he returned and declared unto the people that they should try in the scripture whether ever the ministers of Christ did pull any out of the synagogue, for this is the fruit of the false prophets, and by their fruit they be known (p. 326). A most delightful *non sequitur*. Other instances will be found in the index: Church, disturbances in.

Some of the remarks to ministers in church were doubtless made by members of the Society of Friends, or as they at once became generally and widely known, the Quakers. A woman was assaulted on her homeward journey from Bridgwater market, and compelled to kneel down on the ground and swear that she was not a quaker, which to save her life she did (p. 371). There are several depositions relating to the movements of a noted quaker, Thomas Salthouse, of Dragley Beck in Lancashire (*D.N.B.*, I, 219), round Martock in April, 1657. A large meeting at Coate in that parish was convened by Thomas Budd, formerly vicar of Montacute, and was not conducted in a very peaceable spirit, for if Captain Raymond's troop of militia had not been present, one witness considered that there would have been bloodshed (pp. 339, 340).

The unsettlement of men's minds led to actual prophanity. John Allen of Huntspill compared the Holy Scriptures to fables or a "ballatt," and denied the necessity of prayer, together with other views of an alarming tendency, held by members of the "Family of Love" (p. 291). In the Kalendar of persons for trial at Taunton, 1654, appears John Pippin, late of Bicknoller, labourer, committed for abusing the sacred ordinance of the Lord's Supper, and refusing to give sureties for his good behaviour. At the next Sessions he produced a certificate from Bartholomew Safford, minister of Bicknoller, to the effect that he had professed his hearty sense of, and sorrow for, the said misdemeanour, declaring also his willingness to confess his fault before the public congregation in the church if he may be admitted thereunto. [*S.R.*, 19, 7, 18.]

William Evans, the minister of Twiverton (Twerton), gave

information to John Buckland, 2nd January, 1654-5, that meeting on Saturday night at a friend's house with Walter Rogers, he (without any just occasion) broke out into this or the like expression: That he would invite him this informant the next day to three pints of wine, and a penny loaf, thereby intending the Lord's Supper. Thereupon he did admonish the said Rogers not to come to the Sacrament; who, notwithstanding when he was in his morning sermon came to the church (where he had not been in many months before). And being admonished to forbear the Sacrament and depart out of the congregation as offensive to them, the said Rogers did then break out into rude and disorderly language, disturbing the congregation, and abusing the informant, so that he was enforced to break off his exercise, and dismissed the assembly without administering the Sacrament as he had intended. [*S.R.*, 90, 29.]

In at least one instance, the congregation outside were more annoying than those inside. Cornelius Burges, D.D., petitioned the Court at Wells, 1652-3, that he was much interrupted in his preaching in the Cathedral "by certain people who usually come into the cloisters of the said church and then continue walking up and down all sermon tyme." It would therefore appear that he preached in the nave, and that the windows on the south side were badly broken. The constable of the Liberty was ordered to restrain all such evil-doers (p. 199). Robert Dyer threw stones on the roof of Selworthy Church, thereby disturbing the minister and the congregation (p. 342).

Naturally the building was treated with great irreverence at times. Besides the statements made at the Sessions (see Index, under Church, damage to) there are other cases in the Sessions Rolls. At North Petherton in 1650 some tombstones and part of the churchyard wall were thrown down by men who had been drinking beer until midnight. [*S.R.*, 82, ii, 44.] Nicholas Lucas (Luckis) was accused that he had disturbed the minister of Stogumber in the church, broke down part of the church, and carried away the church door key and kept him. [*S.R.*, 83, i, 50.] Also of having cast down the font in Williton Chapel (p. 343). Thomas Stevens of West Camel laid an information that on going into the church on the 20th May, 1654, he found several persons, and a dog in the pulpit; and was not allowed to pull



the dog out by his owner, Richard Masters, who said that he had latched the dog in until they had done ringing. [*S.R.*, 89, 46.]

The Court of Quarter Sessions also looked after the proper maintenance of the buildings. At Ilchester, 1659, an order was made "for Mr. John Pitts and Mrs. Bond widow to repair the chancel of Ashill church as they do enjoy the glebe and tithes of the said parish" (p. 373).

Further references to Religion will be found later on under "Social Life."

### SOCIAL LIFE.

The County records show a distinct deterioration in manners and morals for the period under review. This may be partly due to the unsettlement caused by the war, and partly to the weakening of all authority. Human life was much less thought of, and the English reputation of being the fiercest nation upon earth is borne out by many details. Every man went abroad with a pike or quarter-staff, for by night or day he was liable to have his heels struck up by a well-directed blow, and his belongings stolen away. After the village feast quiet individuals might find their houses beset by rioters "flown with insolence and wine" and think themselves lucky if the doors held out till the morning.<sup>1</sup> Highways were far from safe even in the light, for men or women. A traveller who lost his money at an inn in North Curry was advised to tell his master that he had been robbed in the forest of Neroche (p. 364) as a reasonable explanation. A fine example of pluck is shown in the behaviour of Henry Strode, aged eleven. He had been assaulted by the father of two boys whom he found stealing an iron bar belonging to his father. He returned home to wash the blood from his head "not being willing his mother should see it to be troubled with it who was then in childbed"; and then returned to the field to recover the bar (p. 331).

The officers of the law carried out their duties at risk of life and limb. Thomas Edgell and John Stepland(?) the constables, and Thomas Hales, tithingman, of Frome, deposed before John Ashe, 15th September, 1655, that when they attempted to arrest Elizabeth Fuller and divers others for being idle persons, Elizabeth's

<sup>1</sup> Nailsea, 334; Middlezoy, 357; Curry Rivel, 359.

mother assaulted and beat them, with much bad language whereby there was made such an insurrection and tumult that divers escaped, and the officers were in danger of their lives, there being drawn together about two hundred lewd and idle persons, who pursued the officers for two hours. [*S.R.*, 91, 3.]

Francis Deane and Nicholas Dinninge, the overseers of Chard, complained to Henry Bonner that when they asked Robert Lincoln to take back a brass half-crown found among some money paid by him, he gave them foul language, said they were both knaves and fools, and that Dinninge was not put into his office for his wisdom. [*S.R.*, 92, 33.]

Peter Gale, tythingman, of Pitminster, had occasion to warn Edward Buncombe with his son for not attending public worship, who in return reviled the said Gale, calling him busy tithingman and little knave. He also sarcastically enquired whether the Somners Courts were up again (p. 298).

Thomas Taylor, tithingman, of Hillsfarrance, on trying to part an affray, was answered by Hugh Jennings "Go about thy business for thou art no more tithingman than myself, and if thou will not I will lay thy head in the dust." [*S.R.*, 82, ii, 77.]

It was not difficult to trace the connection between facilities for getting drink and the bad language and riotous behaviour. At the Wells Sessions, 1646-7, upon the general complaint of the inhabitants of the county of the multitude of alehouses swarming in every parish, notwithstanding some endeavour used for the suppression thereof, the Court desired the two next justices to any place complained of, to suppress the same, and on opposition the offenders were to be whipped. The malsters were put under strict regulations, which Francis Gullocke of Midsomer Norton found no difficulty in evading; and these orders were re-enacted in succeeding years. A petition of several well affected inhabitants of Weston Zoyland whereby they desire to be free from alehouses, there not being any occasion for them, but on the contrary it being very inconvenient to have any there, was presented to the Bridgwater Sessions, 1651; and Stogumber petitioned against any increase of licences at Taunton, 1656.

Part of the duties of the parish officers were to keep order in the alehouses, and to insist upon early closing. The tithingman

of Bruton late in the evening heard singing at the sign of the Wiverne, and having after some difficulty obtained admittance, he desired one man to go to his habitation, who replied that instead he would fight with the officer, who got the worst of it. The constable of Shepton Mallet on a similar errand was informed that "Knaves were in office and honest men set by the heels, with many other exorbitances." The constable and churchwarden of Wincanton having asked a customer at the Black Lion what he made there tippling so late, he replied that they had nothing to do with him, and should go about their business with their fellow drunkards, when there were with them only the other officers of the town (p. 339). At Glastonbury complaint was made that on the 14th January, 1656-7, at the sign of the Shipp there was so much noise caused by people ranting, drinking, and beating a drum, that nobody could sleep (p. 347). From the window of an inn at Chewstoke a gun was fired, and the shot lodged in the hat of John Priston as he was going home, 26th December, 1656 (p. 289).

Alehouses were also the scene of much outspoken disaffection to the Government, as has been noted above. William Brock, who might have been cater-cousin to Master Slender, confessed on examination that he was drinking with two of Martock, and "when the ale was in the wit was out," and that he listed himself for a soldier, and more would not say (p. 369).

Owing to the growth of immorality the laws were strengthened but the principal result seems to have been a great increase of espionage on the part of neighbours, the results being deposed to in language of exceeding coarseness. Orders for bastardy are very numerous. The offending woman was no longer flogged, but it may be doubted if this decision shows humanity, or the desire to deprive the market folk of a pleasing spectacle. Assaults on women both in house and field were frequent, and there are instances of gross and open indecency. Cases of incest appear, frequently committed by stepfathers who are always referred to as fathers-in-law. Drunkenness and immorality seem to have been looked upon as a pleasant method of showing contempt and defiance of authority, civil or ecclesiastical, and one man challenged both by openly boasting that he had committed adultery with a woman who



was a saint. His behaviour somewhat resembled that of the cavalier, who on the Restoration petitioned for the honour of knighthood for having cuckolded Sir T. W., a notorious Round-head. [*Spectator*, vol. vii, No. 629.] Several of the characters in this article seem drawn from the life as depicted in these Quarter Sessions records. The real individual ran considerable risk in making such a boast, as the penalty for adultery was death, by statute passed in 1650, *c.* 10, and Mr. Inderwick has collected several instances of the capital punishment being inflicted. The instance, however, quoted from Whitelock as having happened at the Taunton Quarter Sessions, 1650, cannot be altogether correct as Colonel Desborough did not sit on the Bench that year.<sup>1</sup>

Sabbath-breaking was also much in evidence in spite of the laws. At Taunton, 1650, the inhabitants of Merriott complained of the great disorders committed on the Lord's Day and other days in the inn kept by Robert Gough, who should be suppressed unless he amended his ways (p. 127). John Tucker, minister, of Chesilborough, sent this petition to Taunton Quarter Sessions, 1652 :—

"Sheweth, Whereas there is an acte made by this present Parliament for the better keeping and observing the Lord's Day, and whereas the Lord's Day is greatly prophaned at West Chinnoke within this parish aforesaid, usually every Lord's Day, by sports and pastimes prohibited, in regard that ye officers of that place who are concerned in ye said acte do not only neglect but altogether refuse to do their duty in that behalfe, whereby God is highly dishonoured and ye young people in licentiousness encouraged. The premises considered your petitioner doth humbly desire that some course may be taken with ye officers aforesaid according to ye said acte, and to refer the examining of ye premises to Collonell Pyne and Major Bonner esquires or to deal any other way with them as to your wisdoms shall think meet, that God may no longer be dishonoured in that kind, nor youth in prophaness encouraged. Neglected their duties last year, Robert Patten, churchwarden, Thomas Patten, tythingman; now, Thos. Patten, churchwarden, John Mudford, overseer.

William Doble of Timberscombe, having rebuked some of

<sup>1</sup> F. A. Inderwick, *The Interregnum*, 1891 ; pp. 33, 34.

Wootton (Courtney) for looking for a ram on the Lord's Day, contrary to the Act of Parliament, they replied, "there were none but fools who published the said Act." [S.R., 83, i, 53.]

The alteration of the law relating to the marriage ceremony met with considerable resistance. In 1653, Justices alone were to perform the ceremony, and the entry thereof was to be entered in a book kept by a lay registrar appointed by the parishioners. It was, however, resented by the mass of the people as a grievance that they were not allowed to marry in the church, and when the Ordinance was confirmed in 1656, the declaration was omitted that no other marriage except by a magistrate was valid.<sup>1</sup>

When the parishes were small the Bench were authorized to unite them for the purposes of registration with a neighbour parish, and several orders were accordingly made. [See Index, under Registration.]

The registrars were entitled to charge a fee of one shilling for every certificate of publication and entry of marriage; and a brisk look-out was kept for all couples who preferred to be married by the parish minister. Two couples living at Portbury confessed to Richard Jones on 6th August, 1654, that they, being ignorant of the new Act for marriages, were married at Shirehampton Chapel, in Gloucestershire, and did consider themselves man and wife. [S.R., 89, 26.]

Henry Page of Banwell confessed to William Smith, J.P., 10th December, 1655, that he came to Wells on the 1st March last to be married by the said Mr. Smith, but he not being at home, Page suddenly met with one Owen Willoughby, who told him that a Proclamation the week before allowed any minister to marry as well as a justice, and that he could get him one which he did, and after the minister had received five shillings, he gave him the following certificate:—

"These are to certify that Henry Page of Congresbury and Ann Reeves of Banwell both of this county were lawfully married in the chapel of Close Hall in Wells, 1st March 1654(5) by me Richard Donne, cler. Witness, Owen Willoughby."

Three men of Preston Plucknett, being demanded by George

<sup>1</sup> R. E. C. Waters, *Parish Registers*, 1887; p. 16.

Sampson, J.P., in 1655, if they were married and to whom, gave the names of their wives and number of children, and stated that they were married at Babcary or Keinton Mandeville by a wandering person whose name they do not know, and have no certificate to show. [S.R., 90, 80, 81.] Joseph Aplyn, registrar of the town and parish of Somerton, informed John Barker, J.P., on 9th February, 1654-5, that John Denman, having confessed to his marriage by Mr. Voules, minister of Keinton, he said, "You have don very ill to take that course, you ought to have been married by a Justice," to which rebuke Denman replied that Mr. Voules had warranted the marriage to be lawful. [S.R., 92, 30.]

In fact, so keen were the registrars, that they acted illegally on occasion. Dorothy Cripps of Huntspill deposed before William Smith on 3rd April, 1655, that although she refused her consent to the marriage of her daughter Dorothy with John Morris, the registrar, Zorobabel Hooper, issued his certificate of publication with the exceptions. [S.R., 92, 57.]

Drinking and immorality being manifestly connected with all occasions of merrymaking and holidays, the authorities thought good to suppress all such opportunities of indulgence. For the working classes, the only rest from their labours was to be taken on the Lord's Day, and the only form of relaxation permitted to their minds, was the double attendance at the church. Complaint having been made that at Winsham on the Sabbath there was ringing in peale for pleasure and pastime, the Court doth prohibit any such ringing on that day, also other ringing on that day, other than hath been used for the most part of these two years last past (p. 157).

At the Bridgwater Sessions, 1649, the Court, being informed that through the great confluence of people of all sorts frequenting Revells or Wakes, many abuses are committed, and diverse quarrels, mutinies, and contentions do arise, to the disturbance of the public peace, doth forthwith prohibit and forbid all such assemblies (p. 102). The next summer Mr. Thomas Gorges tried to stop the revel at Langford Budville, held about midsummer, and sent Thomas Chapell, tithingman, with assistance, for that purpose. He found a crowd of some sixty persons on the green by the church, playing at squayles and cudgel playing; and on reading his warrant, one player demanded what he had to do with it,

and said they came to fight, and fight they would, and that they would come again to-morrow and keep revel when the tithingman was hanged, and he and his assistants were set upon and beaten. [S.R., 82, ii, 16.] The Timsbury revel was held as usual on the 4th August, 1656, in defiance of warnings on the part of the authorities (p. 285). The day after the fair at Pensford in April, 1656, there was considerable rioting in the George Inn and afterwards in the street, whereby the constable and his assistants were much ill-treated (p. 302).

Christmas Day was, of course, abolished by Act of Parliament, and warrants were issued on the 25th day of December; a substitute being provided on the 30th January, which was to be reckoned a Day of Thanksgiving (p. xxvii). Efforts were made to remove "Saint" from all place-names in the county, but Taunton James and Barton David never became popular.

Old customs continued to hold their ground. Certain persons of East Woodlands were high in drink on the 26th December, 1659, "having been drinking, playing cards, and fiddling all day in disguised habits," probably mummers (p. 324).

Robert Payne, the minister of Leigh-on-Mendip, deposed on the 22nd August, 1655, that Saturday sennight Edward Wilcox of Kilmersdon rode through Leigh on a little white horse with a headpiece on his head with some thirty or forty men with a drum and long staves and clubs, who went to a house called Cattle House, and in a short time they returned and stayed in the inn for an hour. Wilcox offered as an explanation that the cause of going in this form was because a woman had beaten her husband, and therefore he rode "skimminton." [S.R., 91, 40.]

The custom of the duel was looked upon with considerable disfavour by the authorities. When Ambrose Manfield challenged John Bragge of Langport to fight with a sword *à l'outrance* in a place called Cocklemore, the latter, instead of nominating a second, promptly gave information to Francis Rolle, 27th August, 1658 (p. 358).

Another custom of burial by night was carried out on the death of Colonel Rogers of Cannington. The funeral took place on 20th September, 1653, and in the confusion arising from the darkness and the crowd a man made away with the pall, and was heard to say, "I could find it in my heart to have a



bout at those scuchions." Another witness deposed, that he said to the son of the suspected thief: "Young man, it is said your father hath stolen away the sheet which was on the coffin, you may do well to go to him and let him bring back the sheet again, and we will convey it into the house, and there shall be no more words about it. [S.R., 86, i, 43.]

The following account of a once flourishing industry is of considerable interest.

Information of Jas. Hobbs of Woodbarrow taken before Thos. Latch, 31st May, 1650. [S.R., 82. ii, 6.]

Who saith that some months since divers miners began to digg and search for lead ore upon the common at Woodbarrowe (as upon most other commons in other neighbour places they had ever freely used to do), and having found a good rake, many others came on and made several pitches, and for order sake made their address to one Mr. Maye the state's officer, who appointed three head reeves as officers to order and preserve the state's due of free let according to the custom of the country. After which the workmen began to load some ore, and one John Cox, bailiff and tenant to one Mr. Bamfeild, who hath some tenements near that common (seeing the work like to prove good) did pretend some title to the lott ore on behalf of Mr. Bamfeild, and thereupon with the other state's officers did help to order, measure, and . . . . out the grounds and bounds between the workmen which allotment and all articles then above hath been ever since duly and peaceably kept, and no ill words nor unjust acts between any that ever this informant heard or saw, being dayes amongst them: save that . . . . Mr. Bamfeild, his wife, M . . . and Prickman, and one Westfield, his man, with swords came riding from Wells thither, being nine or ten miles, and claimed all the ore to be theirs, and disturbed the workmen in working with many menacing speeches, and their companions swords were drawn, which was like to make a greate tumult, and this informant with divers others then presently disarmed Westfield and took away his sword; this informant, knowing this Westfield was once before this dismounted and disarmed by himself and some others, then of Captain Barker's troop, in the regiment of Col. Alexander Popham, for that they knew him to have been in arms against the Parliament;



yet now at his discharging he said he listed a souldier under Captain Henry Prickman (who also owned him for such) in the regiment of Colonel Ceely: but presently after confessed Prickman had no such commission, and further saith Prickman and Westfield were often resorting and comploting disturbances at the house of the aforesaid John Cox, who is also a notable malignant. Attested on oath by 5 listed men, and since by above 100 others.

### PLAGUE, FAMINE, AND PESTILENCE.

The numerous references under Plague in the index show that Somersetshire had its full share of this calamity. Dr. C. Creighton, in his *History of Epidemics in Britain*, 1891, considers that besides the plague proper the country also suffered from war-typhus, spotted fever, and perhaps a recrudescence of the sweating sickness of the previous century, to say nothing of malignant fevers and influenza. It can easily be imagined how the inevitable effects of the operations of war and of famine caused by the destruction of stock and crops, and the difficulty of enforcing the primitive sanitary regulations of the small towns, would produce a very unhealthy state of things. The largest mortality from plague was at Bristol in the spring of 1645; Totnes and Ottery St. Mary suffered much in 1645-6; and Tiverton was scourged with war-typhus in 1644.<sup>1</sup> From these places the county was open to infection.

The sufferings of the following places are referred to either in the Q.S. papers or in other contemporary records.

At East Coker from the 8th June to 10th September, 1645, there died and were interred in the contagious sickness plague and pestilence, three score and ten persons.<sup>2</sup>

Hillfarrence petitioned at Wells, 1646-7, that the parish, being about eleven or twelve weeks visited with the plague, a five-mile rate was ordered for their relief, of which the tenth part was never received; inquiry ordered for the recovery of the arrears (p. 19).

North Petherton petitioned for relief at Ilchester, 1647, the

<sup>1</sup> Creighton, i, 552-562.

<sup>2</sup> *Par. Reg., S. and D. N. and Q.*, iii, art. 39.

parish having been a long time infected with the plague and great sums expended on the sick to prevent them from breaking forth into the country round about (p. 28).

Road petitioned at the same time since "yt plesed God to visite them with the pestilence whereon there died 28<sup>o</sup> persons between August and February, 1645"; and a rate on the neighbouring parishes in their aid is altogether contemned and slighted (p. 36).

Taunton St. James petitioned for relief at Wells, 1646-7, for by reason of the last visitacon of the said parishe by the plague, the inhabitants are in great distress (p. 17).

Weare was not to be relieved by other parishes beyond another month "in respect the said parishe (God be prayesd) is pretty well recovered" (p. 2). Bridgwater Sessions, 1646.

Wellington was ordered at the Taunton Sessions, 1650, to pay the arrears due to William Yewens, for his service as watchman, during the time the said town was visited with sickness (p. 125).

Wincanton was infected with the plague in 1641, when the collector of the poor was obliged to lay out of his own purse in respect of the many infected persons and the poverty of the place (p. 15). In that year the plague was very bad in the Midlands; Creighton, *op. cit.*, i, 545.

Wiveliscombe petitioned the Taunton Sessions, 1647, in connection with a five-mile rate unpaid. "From the 17th day of October (1645) until the 9 day of August (1646) 22 score buried and 10 day up to 15 day 28 buried," par. register.<sup>1</sup>

From Yeovil came the following petition, presented at the Ilchester Sessions, 1647.

The humble petition of Thomas Brooke, John Pawly, Giles Fry, and Steven King—

Shewing that in the tyme of the late greate contagion in Yevell wherein manie hundred soules died, and the sicknes growing soe daungerous that noe living would undertake to bury the deade infected bodies: And thereupon Gregory Reinoldes being then Constable of the hundred, and Ambrose Seward constable of the burrowe of Yevell, perswaded your petitioners

<sup>1</sup> F. Hancock, *History of Wiveliscombe*, 1912.

to undertake the carrying and burying of the dead bodies, and promised to pay to each of your petitioners xiiij*d.* for everie day so longe as they would undertake that daungerous service, which your petitioners did truly and diligently perform by the space of eleaven weeks to the greate hazard of their lives, and losse of earninge other better daily wages abroad, which they were abridged of a longe tyme together. But so it is the said Reynoldes dyinge your poor petitioners cannot get theire wages due from the said Seward soe that they are like to lose that which they so daungerously laboured for, unless your worshippes will be pleased to yeale them reliefe. [*S.R.*, 80, 21.]

The overseers petitioned the Wells Sessions, 1646-7, for relief, they being twenty pounds out of pocket, because they isolated diverse houses then infected and kept people therein close, providing all things necessary for the infected at their own charges (p. 12).

The delay in the payment of these bold men can only be excused in some measure by the impoverished condition of the town as set forth in a petition presented to the Sessions at Wells, 1646-7, and referred to four justices for examination. The document itself got placed in the *S.R.*, No. 94, containing papers for 1655-6, and is printed on page 311. The "late calamity of fire" mentioned therein, happened in 1640.<sup>1</sup>

The danger of famine arose not from failure of the crops, of which nothing is said, but from the higher prices, one cause being considered to be the export of grain from Bridgwater to Ireland for the rebels. [*State Papers*, Dom., 1649-50, p. 35.] The excessive number of malsters was complained of at the Wells Sessions, 1646-7, because "by them the prices of corn are much enhanced to the great detriment of the poor in this tyme of dearth and scarcity"; the argument being that if so much barley was not converted into malt, there would be more bread; and it might have been added more money to purchase it, but this result has not yet been fully grasped. A certain section of the populace being hungry helped themselves to their neighbours fowls, sheep and deer. Jonas Master of Wells, confessed that when he asked Emblin why he was wanted, he replied "what,

<sup>1</sup> *Som. and Dors. N. and Q.*, i, p. 69.

shall we famish!" So they killed a sheep and divided the body (p. 370).

Of witchcraft there are happily few indications. The Court at Ilchester, 1653, supported the certificate of certain inhabitants of that town "on behalf of Dorothy Chapple, who stands condemned for witchcraft; it being humbly certified to the consideration of the Lord Chief Baron Wilde that she is a fit object of mercy and to receive pardon for life" (p. 206). The opinion of several women taken on oath before William Smith, 30th April, 1655, was that Jane, wife of John Ridwood, of East Wells, was an unlucky or (unfortunate) witch, that is one who brought ill-luck or misfortune.

In 1653, many witnesses deposed that after Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Castle of Glastonbury, had visited their houses to borrow or buy, their stock fell ill and their beer did not work. When refused by one woman she threatened her in these words "I have seen the fall of three already and I hope to see the fall of thee and of Clark's folke shortly." Another witness deposed that he saw Castle's cat come out and play with a great toad as broad as his hand, and another man called to see the sight threw a stone at the toad, but it being dark did not see if he hit it. [*S.R.*, 86, ii, 3-7.]

Near akin to witchcraft are the cases of conjuring in the original sense of the practice of magic; in all the instances given in these records for the discovery of goods lost, stolen, or strayed. Prior explains this use exactly: "From the account the loser brings, the conjurer knows who stole the things." There are two cases given in the text (pp. 331, 369); the conjuror named in 331, Edward Banbury, had undertaken to give over the business after the following examination. On 24th May, 1653, Thomas Willis of Timsburrow, deposed that he had been sent to Glastonbury by Mary Lansdon to enquire of Mr. Gallup about some stolen goods. Not finding him at home he was advised to go to Mr. Banbury an apothecary to whom he told his errand. After some demur he looked in a book in his shop and then wrote a note (appended to the deposition): Mr., I received your message concerning an apron lost, you took to a woman and entreated her to hold it but she never delivered it to you again; you asked of two for it but the first you asked have it,



you shall have it again before the present May passeth. Your Edward Banbury. For this he received two shillings.

On being examined before John Hippisley and John Buckland, 31st May, 1653, Banbury (barber), acknowledgeth that a messenger came to him about an apron lost, and he did "according to the rules of astrology and not by any diabolical art," and that he had one shilling which he undertook to repay again unless she had the apron again (as he always useth to do in such cases), but he saith he is resolved to leave off all farther practice of astrology in this kind. [*S.R.*, 86, ii, 72-73.]

Jasper Bale of Cheddon Fitzpaine, near Taunton, also professed to find stolen goods "by the rules of astrologie," but was uniformly unsuccessful. [*S.R.*, 90, 106-107.]

#### CRIME AND VAGRANTS.

The authorities had their hands more than full of what would now be called police business, for which see the calendar of Sessions Rolls (pp. 285 to the end).

Larceny both petty and serious was a perpetual trouble. Any portable left about was liable to disappear, an apron on a hedge, a pan at the back door, a cheese set in a window. Depredations on crops growing and housed were incessant. Hen roosts and flocks and herds diminished in the night time. With the open fields and commons it was impossible to tell if the person in the gloaming was intent on his own or other peoples' property. Butchers were great offenders in this way, and replenished their stalls at an easy rate. There is a curious account of an attempted burglary at Allerton. A lodger returning very early in the morning found a complicated arrangement of wire, string and knotted sticks in the lock of the front door; and "he believeth that the same instruments will both lock and unlock many locks" (p. 330). As a rule brute force was the only method employed.

An immense number of homeless people were wandering through the country, who had generally provided themselves with forged passes (*see ante*, xxviii). In 1650, a false pass was taken from a travelling woman, purporting to be signed by Mr. Edward Tooker, J.P., of Wilts, and the tithingman was



ordered to arrest her and her husband "a very lame man not able to travel more than one mile a day," who, nevertheless, escaped in the night "although hue and cry hath been sent after him." [S.R., 81, 84, 85.]

## COLONIES.

There are a few references to the new colonies. In 1658 two young men left Clapton, near Crewkerne, to go to Virginia; but one changed his mind on getting to Bristol and came home again (p. 358). The island of Barbadoes, first colonized in 1628, was a more favourite place of refuge. It would appear to have had the reputation of those climes somewhere east of Suez, since about 1640 it was stated that the population consisted of some 8,000 fighting men, one half of whom "were dissolute English, Scotch, and Irish."<sup>1</sup> In 1647 the husband of Mary Jay had deserted his wife "for diverse years together at the Barbadoes" (p. 46); and in 1657 Robert Parker had been at that island ever since the late king was beheaded, leaving wife and child in Bristol (p. 337).

Efforts were being made to secure emigrants young enough to be made useful. At the Taunton Sessions 1654 it was found that William Morris of Bruton had not only neglected his apprentice, but "also endeavoured to have transported him to the Barbadoes" (p. 242). About the same date Humphrey Walrond the younger, of Wells, made a complaint that whereas Owen Willoughby of Close Hall, Wells, had arranged that his son John should go to the Barbadoes as an apprentice for eight years, and the said Walrond had taken the boy to Bristol, yet he and another made their way back to Wells and refused to go; the mother of the said boy being very resolute and foul language, calling him "English spirit and devil," and that he betrayed children, and that he had cheated, betrayed, and sold her child. [S.R., 91, 41-3.] It is to be feared that Walrond was little better than a crimp, and it is well known that Bristol was one of the headquarters of the trade. [Macaulay, *Hist. of England*.] Mrs. Escott of Plainsfield may have thought of this when she offered

<sup>1</sup> *Cam. Modern Hist.*, iv, 756.

Humphrey Bond *200*li**. to kill or convey away one Robert Slocombe so that he might not be seen any more (p. 289). But this Introduction must have an end.

Readers of *Woodstock* will find no difficulty in comparing its characters with the real persons whose sayings and doings are set down in these records. It is not easy to forgive Sir Walter for taking King Charles into Oxfordshire when the royal fugitive's adventures after Worcester fight would have provided ample scope for his story-telling genius. The Lord Protector might as easily have been brought under the oak at Boscobel or outside the hiding place at Trent, as before the Lodge of Woodstock, and all lesser incidents could have been worked in from the contemporary pamphlets and books issued after the Restoration. Otherwise the fullest praise must be given to the life-like manner in which the different personages perform their parts, even in the reproduction of the stilted language used by all classes.

Roger Wildrake, with his healths and songs and his capacity for getting himself within sight of the gallows, appears again and again in some ruined Cavalier; and even his credentials as one of Lunsford's light horse, when he introduced himself to Sir Henry Lee, were actually brought against Mr. Henry Leister "that he had killed a child while he was in the army and rosted it." The Rev. Nehemiah Holdenough, intruded minister of Woodstock, had quite as much ready wit and courage as his brethren of Nailsea and Croscombe. The opening chapter of the story with the incident of the preaching soldier is found at Wookey where a soldier held forth on the 106th Psalm, but not being supported by a troop his discourse was drowned by the bells, and the sermon could not be heard, or at least has not been recorded. The darker side of Trusty Tompkin's fanaticism was publicly expounded by John Allen of Huntspill.

The loyalty and sufferings of Sir Henry Lee of Ditchley are generally considered to have been taken from the career of the typical cavalier Sir John Stawell of Cothelstone. But as Sir Henry was given the honour of receiving the Prince after Worcester the character may be more truthfully transferred to Colonel Francis Wyndham of Trent. He sheltered Charles on his flight to the coast and recalled, for his majesty's encouragement,

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the speech of his father, Sir Thomas Wyndham, concerning the evils that he foresaw would come upon the land, and his dying instruction to his sons "In all times to adhere to the Crown ; and though the Crown should hang upon a bush, I charge you to forsake it not."

There were many gentlemen in the county who, like Colonel Markham Everard, discovered that the Civil War had only brought about the destruction of Parliamentary and Legal government, and had led to the despotism of the sword, even though it was wielded by one who strove to guard the interests of the nation. For both parties the lesson had been a stern one, and only one side required a repetition :

Till our fathers 'stablished, after stormy years,  
How our King is one with us, first among his peers.

## CORRIGENDA.

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- P. 92. *For Rayall read Raynoll.*  
,, 102. No. 13, *for James read Jones.*  
,, 204. No. 6, *after Thomas add English.*  
,, 240. No. 12, *for Baker read Barker.*  
,, 264. First line, *for Bovett read Bonner.*  
,, 297. No. 12, *for now read new.*  
,, 334. No. 16, *for Bakewell read Backwell.*  
,, 384. No. 54, *for warranted read warrant.*

# SOMERSET

## QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS.

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MINUTE BOOK NO. IV, 1646-1656.

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT BRIDGEWATER the sixth, seventh, and eighth days of October in the 22nd year of the reign of our Lord Charles [1646] Before Henry Rolle, one of the Justices of the King's Bench, George ffairewell, Knight; Richard Cole, Esq., Henry Henley, Esq., George Luttrell, Esq., John Buckland, Esq., Thomas Hodges, Esq., John Newton, Esq., Richard Jones, Esq., Marmaduke Jennings, Esq., John Hipplesey, Esq., and John Pyne, Esq., Justices of the peace.

I. Upon the peticon of Robert Harris of Middlezoy preferred unto the right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Henry Roll one of the Justices of the King's Bench thereby shewing that whereas George Arnold and James Michell late overseers of the poore of the parishe of Othery in the said County had committed a poore child to the custody keepinge and maintenance of the said Robert Harris promising him xij<sup>d</sup> weekely soe longe as hee should keepe and maintaine the same which hath in theire yeere bene duely paid accordingly but sithence deteyned by the now overseers there by the space of 44 weekes or neere thereabouts although the same hath benn att severall tymes demaunded Ordered that the two



next Justices of the peace would call the nowe overseers of the poore of Othery aforesaid and such other persons as are interested in the cause before them and sett some order therein for the releife and satisfaction of y<sup>e</sup> said Robert Harris and for his Chardges in procuringe this order as in their discrecon shalbe thought fitt.

2. Uppon consideracon had by this Court of the certificate of John Buckland Esq<sup>r</sup> one of his Mat<sup>ies</sup> Justices of the peace of this County touchinge the Conclucion of the pish of Weare vizited with the Pestilence It is ordered that the present tax for the levyinge of a weekely contribucon of forty shillings on y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants within five miles (accordinge to the statute) have continuance for the space of one moneth and noe longer (the said moneth to be accompted from y<sup>e</sup> time of the first makeinge of the said tax and noe longer) in respect the said parish of Wearè (God bee praysed) is pretty well recovered, unles the two Justices next adioynninge thereunto shall uppon urgent necessitie think good to continue the same anie longer.

3. Whereas Agnes Hele peticoned this Court shewinge that shee about three yeeres sithence had a base Child borne of her body of which Child one Robert Duddinge of Chewton was y<sup>e</sup> reputed father And the said Robert Duddinge departinge the Country William Duddinge his father was by consentt ordered to contribute towards the releife of the said Child which order hee the said William afterwards disobeying was for the same committed to prison uppon Bayle to appeare att the next generall Sessions of the peace to answer such his neglects And whereas the Records of this Court Dureinge the late Combustions of warr in theis parts have beene many of them ymbezelled and cannot yet be found and especially the said recognizaunce concerninge the said Robert Duddinge The two next Justices of the Peace adjoininge Chewton to take such order for the maintenance of the said child by raising money by rate or otherwise, etc.

4. Uppon a peticon of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Huishe, etc. Whereby shewing that by reason of the breaking

downe of the Bridge called Huishe bridge by y<sup>e</sup> King's forces diuers of the Inhabitants of the said parishe and others who had a way ouer y<sup>e</sup> same bridge to certen lands of theires are nowe deprived of that way and are thereby enforced hauinge noe other way to theire said lands to leaue theire grounds unmanured to theire greate prejudice; The two next justices of the peace adjoining thereunto to make an order that the bridge may be speedily repaired or to certify the whole state of the case and the names of all such persons as they shall find contrary herein at the next general sessions of the peace.

5. The two next justices adjoining Spaxton to compose the difference between the inhabitants of that parish respecting the unequal imposing of rates or certify their opinions touching the same business at the next general Sessions of the peace together with the names of such persons as they shall find to haue been anie way faultye touchinge the premisses.

6. Upon the peticon of Stephen Vincent to this Court shewing that he was borne att Compton Pauncefoote in this Countie, but hath for a long space liued in Ireland; where he was driuen by the Rebels and enforced to retorne to this Kingdome for his releife and succour, and desiringe to inhabite att Compton Pancefoote aforesaid; Mr. Jennings and Mr. Newton two of his Majesty's Justices to inquire the truth of the premises and to certify the court the true state thereof and their opinions what shall be fit to be then ordered touching the same and ("in case they see good) to order the said Vincent some permission of habitacon in Compton Pancefoote aforesaid in the meane time," etc.

7. William Senex Wm. Rennoll and others, maimed souldiers, who served the Parliamēt in the late Seidges of Bristoll and Taunton to be afforded reasonable relief by the Treasurer for maimed soldiers at his discretion.

8. This Court mindinge y<sup>e</sup> necessity of puttinge y<sup>e</sup> howse of correction att Shepton Mallett within this County in repaire and order which for a long time by reason of the present sad distractions hath layen unregarded doth thinke fitt and order that

y<sup>e</sup> same bee forthwith att y<sup>e</sup> chardges of y<sup>e</sup> County putt into sufficient repaire and that workinge tooles bee provided sufficient for y<sup>e</sup> ymploymt of y<sup>e</sup> poore on worke there and y<sup>t</sup> Mr Poyton y<sup>e</sup> nowe keeper thereof doth continue keep[er] of y<sup>e</sup> same howse of correcon as long as he shall well behaue himselfe in the said office, and y<sup>e</sup> said Mr John Poyton to enioy all fees and priuiledges incident to y<sup>e</sup> same office, And besides shall haue paid him by this County thirty pounds per annum fee for the xicucon of y<sup>e</sup> same office And allsoe S<sup>r</sup> John Horner Knight (high Sheriffe of this County) Richard Cole and John Buckland three of his Maties Justices of peace of this County Esq<sup>r</sup>es are desired to consider of such articles and orders as the lawe in such cases doth admitt of and allowe and shalbee most suteable to bee applyed to that howse of correcon for the well regulatinge thereof.

9. This Court mindeinge y<sup>e</sup> necessity of puttinge y<sup>e</sup> howse of correcon att Taunton within this County in repaire and order which for a long time by reason of the present distraccons hath layen unregarded doth thinke fitt and order that the same be forthwith att y<sup>e</sup> chardges of y<sup>e</sup> County putt into sufficient repaire, and that workinge tooles be provided sufficient for y<sup>e</sup> ymploymt of y<sup>e</sup> poore on worke there, and that Marmaduke Curme the nowe keeper thereof doth continue keeper of y<sup>e</sup> same howse of correcon as long as he shall well behaue himselfe in the said office, and the said Marmaduke Curme enioy all fees and priuiledges incident to y<sup>e</sup> same office, And besides shall haue paid him by this County twenty pounds per annum fee for the xicucon of y<sup>e</sup> same office; And allsoe S<sup>r</sup> George ffarewell Knight, John Pyne and Henry Henly Esq<sup>r</sup>s three of his Maties Justices of peace of this County are desired to consider of such Articles and orders as y<sup>e</sup> lawe in such Cases doth admitt of and allowe and shalbe most suteable to be applyed to that howse of correcon for the well regulatinge thereof.

10. This court finding that severall Constables and others officers and seuerall other persons under colour of being collectors haue duringe theis sadd times of distraccon and Ciuill warr receiued severall summes of money of diuers of his Maties

subjects within this County both duringe y<sup>e</sup> time y<sup>e</sup> Enemye commanded the County and since to y<sup>e</sup> great aggreivance of many, doth order and declare that every person havinge cause of complainte herein may repaire to the twoe next Justices of Peace to their respective habitacons or abode for their releife in the premisses, who are ordered to call every such officer and Collector before them, and to take their Accompts and Certifie y<sup>e</sup> same att y<sup>e</sup> next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County and further to deale w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> officers and Collectors as the case doth require and the lawe permitt to thend the parties greiued may bee releiued herein.

11. The peticon of Mary Cape of Wellington thereby shewing that y<sup>e</sup> Peticon<sup>rs</sup> husband was killed att Wellington howse in the States service by meanes whereof she is destitute of a maintenance to support herselfe and children, and therefore prayeth releife out of y<sup>e</sup> said parish, the examination thereof referred to Sir George ffarewall knight and John Pyne Esq<sup>re</sup> to order a reasonable allowance to her.

12. Upon readinge of y<sup>e</sup> Certificate of y<sup>e</sup> parishoners of Bawdripp whereby it appeareth that Mary Nunny of y<sup>e</sup> said parish widdowe and other her predecessors of y<sup>e</sup> howse wherein she dwelleth there haue for many yeeres past constantly kept an Alehouse and house of entertainem<sup>t</sup> for trauellers (the same howse being neere the kings high way) and upon y<sup>e</sup> request of y<sup>e</sup> said parishion<sup>rs</sup>, it was ordered that the said Mary Nunny haue licence from this Court for y<sup>e</sup> continuance and keepinge of an Alehowse in the said howse.

13. An order to be made for the relief of a child and the discharge of the parish of Kenne.

14. Uppon the Complainte of Thomas Morse of the hundred of Taunton Deane thereby shewing by peticon that one James Ley of Ninehead within the hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane aforesaid was the xiiij<sup>th</sup> of October last att the Courte Leete held for the same hundred chosen Constable of the said hundred in your peticoner his steed and roome, and alsoe ordered to repaire to the Steward of the said Court to take his oath of



Constable, but the said Ley hath hitherto refused to doe the same to the Petitioner his greate aggreivance ; it is ordered that the said Ley doe forthwith on sight hereof repayre to Sir George ffarewell knight one of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Justices of the Peace and before him take his oath of Constable of the said hundred accordinge to lawe, And in case of refusall by the said Ley the said Sir George is desired to convene the said Ley before him and to Committe to prison untill he shall conforme unles hee shall find good sureties to answeere att the next generall Sessions of the Peace within the said County for such his refusall.

15. Uppon the greate complaints of severall hundredors of the County of the defect in severall Bridges occasioned by the Marchinge of Armies to and fro whereby the Country cannott have recourse from one place to another but by and through unusuall wayes and that many tymes with hazard to theire greate aggreivance and prejudice It is ordered that all Bridges within this County bee with all convenient speed repaired and made passable as before by such persons who by lawe ought to doe the same uppon payne of beinge punished for theire Defaults on complainte made hereof to this Court And the Justices of Peace of the severall diuisions within this County are desired to countenance such iust complaints as shalbe made touchinge the premisses, and to make use of such powers as the lawe hath invested them withall in Cases of this nature to further the accomplishment of this order.

16. George Willcox of Pensford the reputed father of the base child of Margaret Spencer of Publowe to be continued on bail until the next Sessions, the two next Justices in the meantime to make an order.

17. This Court findinge that there was noe Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> maymed souldiers appointed for the last yeere beginning att Easter 1645 nor anie money receiv<sup>ed</sup> since that tyme, and there beinge a greate want thereof both to satisfie the pencons formerly graunted and releive others that have beene maymed in the Parliaments service, Doth therefore order that the Constables of every hundred and liberty within this County shall take especiall care to collect and leavy all the maymed Souldiers



money due within their severall hundreds and liberties for this and the last yeere and to make a payment thereof unto John Buckland Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for this yeere att or before Wells Sess<sup>s</sup> next And that yf any Churchwardens or other officers whom it may concerne shall neglect their duty herein on Complaint made thereof by the Constables of the Hundred unto the next Justice of peace they are to bee bound to the next Sessions to answere their contempt and to incurre such penalties as the lawe shall inflict on them.

18. Whereas the inhabitants of the severall parishes and tythings of Bincombe (in Over Stowey), Netherstowey, Lilstock, Kilton, Kilve, East Quantoxhead, West Quantoxhead, Sampford Brett, Crocombe, Halsway, Bicnoaller, Stogoumber and Lodhuish have peticoned this Court that the said inhabitants have longe suffered under an unequall and disporconable rate to all taxes and payments by reason of the partiall carriage of the Constables and rators of the said parishes and tythings to ye greate impoverishing of divers of the inhabitants within the said parishes and tythings ; George Luttrell and Charles Styninges Esq<sup>rs</sup> to settle an order therein that the inhabitants of the said severall parishes or tythings may have noe future cause to complainte.

19. Whereas the Inhabitants of the severall tythings of Whatley, Elme, Roade, and Laverton in the hundred of ffrome haue peticoned this Court that they the said Inhabitants haue longe suffered under an unequall and disporconable Rate to all taxes and payments by meanes of the partiall carriage of the Constables of the said hundred to the greate impoverishment of diverse of the Inhabitants within the said tythings ; this Court doth desire that Sir John Horner Knight the present high Sherrife of this County, John Hippisly and John Carew Esq<sup>rs</sup> two of his ma<sup>ties</sup> Justices of the Peace, to send for the present constables of the said hundred before them and settle an order therein.

20. This Court findinge that the hospitalls and Spittls within the County have beene of late (by reason of the pnte distraccons)

much neglected to the greate aggreviunce of the poore people of and belonging to the same have therefore thought fitt in order to a redresse touchinge the same to make choyce of and do ordeyne and make John Hippisley Esqr Treasurer for the hospitalls and Spittls within the Easterne division of the same, and Charles Steynings Esqr &c Treasurer of the Western division within the same the said Justices to continue in their offices untill Easter Sessions next And the Constables and other officers within the same severall and respective divisions are required to make Collecon of all areres due to the said hospitalls, and such moneys as shall bee due to the same for this yeere and to pay the same to the said respective Treasurers before Wells Sessions next; And in case anie Constable or other officer shall neglect his Duety herein the next Justices of the peace are to bind such person over to the next Sessions to answer such his contempt as the lawe shall direct And the said Treasurers are to endeavour that the poore people in the said hospitalls and Spittles may enjoy their due in this behalfe; and that the said houses may bee governed and supported accordinge to lawe.

21. Forasmuch as there have beene workemen ymployed by Sir John Horner Knight high Sherife and one of his Maties Justices by order made att the Assizes held for the same in and about the Reedifyinge and repayringe of the Comon Goale, And the said Sherriffe nowe complayned that hee is destitute of a meanes to defray the said Chardge; It is therefore ordered that the said Sir John Horner and Marmaduke Jennings and John Whittby Esqrs two other of his Maties Justices of the peace or anie two of them doe examine the accompts of the said Chardgs And certify the full Chardge to the severall Treasurers of hospitalls within this County who are ordered, in case there bee a surplus of hospitall money, to pay the same; And in case there shall bee noe surplus of hospitall money or a want in the surplus, to defraye the same; then the said three Justices are to lay the said chardge or soe much thereof as shall bee wantinge in hospitall money proporconably on every hundred within the County and to yssue warrants to the severall Constables of the hundreds for the ratinge and levyinge y<sup>e</sup> same.

22. Uppon complaint of John Browne gent. Goaler of this County that hee hath noe assurance for the payment of such wages as hath usually beene paid to his predecessors which is as hee alleadgeth, 40*l.* per annum, it was ordered that the Treasurers appointed for the hospitalls doe examine how much wages per annum hath beene usually paid to the goaler for thee tyme beinge, and to continue such alloweance. And further the said John Browne is by this Court made and ordeyned keep[er] of the house of Correcon att Ivelchester, and to enioy the same office and all fees and priviledges incident to the same during so longe tyme as hee shall well behaue himselfe therein, and to haue the same alloweance and wages per annum as keepers of the same house of Correcon for the tyme beinge haue formerly had.

23. Uppon the peticon of Roger Ritherdon and Thomas Grave Tythingmen of Bradford shewing that they had been att chardge in pressinge conductinge and curinge Maymed souldiers, which caused them to expend the some of 6*li.* 10*sh.* & 7*d.* which chardge as yet rested wholly on the Peticoners, whereas (as the Peticoners alleadged) the same ought to have beene borne by the whole parish of Bradford It is ordered that the next Justices of the Peace on the instance of Ritherton and Grave Doe call such persons as shall be concerned in the premisses before them, and to mediate the difference yf they can; otherwise to make such order as shall bee agreeable to lawe and Justice.

24. Uppon the peticon of the overseer of the poore of the parishe of East Quantoxhead unto this Court preferred therein shewing that one Anstis Corke of the same parishe beinge there delivered of a base Child begotten on her body by one Nicholas Moorton late of the same parish and that one Richard Kamplyn late of Kilve with his wife and three small children are late come as Inmates into the Parish of East Quantoxhead which may hereafter become very burdensome and chardgeable to the said parish if tymely prevention bee not taken therein; George Luttrell and Charles Steynnings Esq<sup>rs</sup> to settle an order in both respects according to lawe.

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD THE KING  
HELD AT WELLS the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th days  
of January in the reign of our Lord Charles the 22nd  
(1646-7), Before John Buckland, Esq., John Preston,  
Esq., John Hippesley, Esq., John Pyne, Esq., Edward  
Popham, Esq., Richard Jones, Esq., John Ashe, Esq.,  
Henry Henley, Esq., and John Carew, Esq., Justices of the  
peace of the said Lord the King.

1. Uppon the reading of the peticon of William Sweete  
thereby shewing that hee uppon the request of the Overseers of  
the poore of the parish of Milverton tooke Joane the Daughter  
of Elizabeth Bodley widdowe to bee his apprentice according to  
the statute in this behalfe which apprentishipp is yet in beinge  
and there is a howse which the peticoner heretofore bought for  
the life of the said Elizabeth nowe come to the said Joane by  
reason of the death of the said Elizabeth the peticoner desiring  
that hee may duringe the Apprentishipp enioy the howse on  
security to bee responsible for the profits; and further desiringe  
that one [Widow] Vincent who keepeth tipplinge in the said  
howse without Licence maie bee removed; This Court doth  
referr the examinacon of the premisses to the two next Justices  
of the peace to the said parish of Milverton, and they to make  
such order herein as shall bee agreeable to Lawe.

2. This Court takinge notice that severall persons disaffected  
to the parliament receaue pencons within this Countie as  
meighmed souldiers some of the said pencons havinge binn  
graunted since the beginninge of this warr duringe the tyme the  
enimy commanded this Countie and the Court Likewise beinge  
informed that there are severall meighmed souldiers penconers  
within this Countie who haue competent estates to liue by besides  
their pencons doe declare and order that all pencons paiable to  
any such disaffected persons shall from henceforth Cease and  
determine and the orders warrantinge the paiment of the same  
pencons to bee null and voyd; And further the Court doth  
desire, and the Tresurers are further by this Court authorized to  
take off and withdraw all pencons from such persons as they  
shall finde able to subsist without the assistance of their pencon.



3. Uppon the humble suite of Lewis Sweetinge of Stowey shewing that hee hadd binn kept in Constable of the hundreds of Andersfeild and Williton freemanors for five yeares together nowe last past and therefore desired to bee discharged presentinge the names of Simon Venn and John Date as fitt persons either of them to serve in his steed; Referred to S<sup>r</sup> George ffarewell knt, to make such order in the premisses as to free the subiect from oppression and Lawe haue its Course.

4. Uppon the peticon of the paricon<sup>r</sup>s of Bedminster shewing that their high Waies were much impaired and decayed by reason of the greate Carriage towards the Citty of Bristoll there beinge but fower ploughes in the parish and five road waies to reparaire and therefore desire a convenient tyme to reparaire their waies and that every tenant within the parish maie bee assessed by an equall Rate towards that work this Court takinge the premisses into consideracon doth order that the peticoners haue tyme to reparaire their said high waies twixt this and the next Sessions and in answere to the said other request of the peticoners doth order the Constables and Churchwardens of the said parishe Duely to pursue the statutes touchinge highwaies, and theruppon this Court will add such power unto them as by the said Statutes is directed.

5. Uppon the peticon of the pariconers of Butcombe shewing that their high waies were much impaired and decayed by reason of the greate store of raine that hath fallen and the much Carriage of lead oare there beinge but fower ploughes in the said parish, and therefore desire a Convenient tyme to reparaire their waies and that every tenant within the parish maie bee assessed by an equall Rate towards that worke; Similar order made as in the one preceding.

6. Variation of an order made touching a base child borne in the parish of Publowe whose mother had since escaped. [Bridgwater Sess. 1646, No 16.]

7. Application to set aside an order for the maintenance of a child born in the parish of Kenn the reputed father alleging "that the husband of the said Mary Jaye is yet in life and that



the said Child was borne in Lawfull matrimony and therefore he ought not to bee Charged towards the maintenance of the said Child." Referred to the two justices who had made the order. [S.R., lxxx, 24.]

8. Peti<sup>ti</sup>ōn of the Inhabitants of the Burrowe of Yevell therby Complaininge of a disproporcon laid on the said place in ratinge the Countie towards the Brittishe Army ; yt is thought meete by this Court to referr the examination of the premisses to Mr Whitby Mr Goffe Mr Jenninges and Mr Newton fower of his Mat<sup>ies</sup> Justices of the peace within this Countie.

9. This Court receauinge severall Informacons against one Mr. Smart of Walton Clerk of his attemptinge the Chastity of severall women and maides doe thinke fitt in regarde by the Ordinancs of Parliamēt for associatinge the westerne parte, the settlinge the ministry within this Countie is left and referred to the Committee of parliament for the same, not to take the same businesse into examinacon but rather to intreate the said Committee to take Cognizance hereof and to doe therein as they shall thinke fitt.

10. Uppon readinge the peti<sup>ti</sup>ōn of John Moore thereby shewinge that there are certaine arreares due to him out of the hospitall mony heretofore ordered to him by the Judge of Assize for this Countie for the keepinge of a Childe of one Mary Stevens doth think fitt to refer the examinacon hereof to the Tresurer for the Hospitalls in the-westerne division of this Countie, the said Tresurer is desired to take care that the said Moore bee satisfied what is reasonable and the said arreares bee employed for the best advantage of the said Child takeinge this into considera<sup>ti</sup>ōn that in case the said arreares shall fall out to bee Considerable then the same to bee employed and settled intirely as a stocke for the said Childe in such manner as the said T<sup>resorer</sup> in his discre<sup>ti</sup>ōn shall thinke fitt.

10A. Uppon the readinge of the peticon of the Overseers of the poore of Yevell thereby settinge forth that after the beginninge of the late infeccōn there the peticoners hopinge to haue stayed the increase thereof did shutt upp

diverse howses then infected and kept persons therein Close and did by direcon of Justice Whitby provide all thinges herein necessary for the said infected at their owne Charge, there beinge then noe order made nor contribucon allowed out of the hundred for doinge therof, in which service there was expended twenty pounds by the peticoners of their owne monyes which as yet remaineth unsatisfied and as yet nothinge is donn for the peticoners satisfacon; Ordered to be referred to the two next Justices of the peace for this Countie next to Yevell to make such order herein as shall bee most agreeable to Justice. [S.R., lxxx, 21.]

11. Uppon the readinge of the peticon of the Inhabitants and Overseers of the poore of Yevell thereby shewing that the poore people there by reason of the late greate infecon of the pestilence are soe increased and especially Children and widdowes soe they are not able to mainetaine and releue their owne poore the same place hauinge binn much impoverished as well by a late Calamity of fire befallinge them as the pestilence there reigning and that there are severall parishes very rich who haue fewe or noe poore therein (viz<sup>t</sup>) Chiltron Domer Lymington and Ashington; Referred to the two next Justices to consider whether the same parishes are fit to be aiding to Yevell and to examine what other parishes are fit to contribute to the charge and to certify the same at the next general sessions.

12. Uppon readinge the peti<sup>con</sup> of the Inhabitants of Taunton and Taunton Deane settinge forth their Inability to paie the arreares of the spitall mony in regarde of their greate losses occasioned by the warre and by takinge into consideracon by this Court the greate occasion there is at present for mony towards the repaireing the Common gaol and other such like occasions doth therefore order that throughout the whole Countie of Somerset there shall be rayسد and gathered forthw<sup>ith</sup> one full six monenth<sup>s</sup> paie for the said hospitalls to end att Christmas last And further doth Order that in Case any person or persons hath alreddy paid more then his due proporcon of six monethes paye of the said hospitall mony, that then from thence forth such person and persons shall be allowed the same by way of

defalcacion by the Collector of hospitall mony for the tyme beinge out of such mony as shall growe due and paiaible by him or them for hospitall money in tyme to come.

13. Uppon readinge the peticon of Joane Poole therby shewing that her father dying in March 1644 left her an Orphan of tender yeares and very sickly and left a Coppyholde tenement worth betweene thirty and forty pounds per annum to her stepmother who hath noe Charge, and is an able younge woman, the said stepmother since the death of the peticoners father hath not afforded the said peticoner any Comfort at all and hadd not some freinds had compassion on the said peticoner shee must of necessity haue binn burdensome to the parishe; Ordered that the two next justices should call before them the said Joane Poole and her said stepmother and make such order as shall bee agreeable to Justice.

14. Uppon the petiçõn of Thomas Sanger therby shewing that he beinge chosen to bee one of the Constables of the liberty within the hundred of Bathefor[um] for the last yeare did notwithstanding his greate charge in these troublesome tymes performe his Duty with diligence, and his yeare beinge expired at Michmās last one William Fisher was elected Constable in his place which said Fisher hath not as yet taken his oath but refuseth to doe yt; And whereas yt was alleadged on the behalfe of the said Fisher that hee is a very olde man about 74 yeares of age and noe waies able to perform the said office;—the next justice of the peace if he find the said Fisher not sufficient to swear such person as shall be found sufficient upon presentment of the said Sanger and to discharge the said Sanger from the said office.

15. Uppon readinge the petiçõn of Clement Caswell of Crewkerne therby shewing that about seaven yeare since hee beinge by the Justice of the peace of this Countie ordered to paie two shillinges weekly towards the mainetenance of two base children borne at one birth on the boddy of one Agnes Bull, in obedience to <sup>which</sup> order hee paid the said ijs weekly constantly untill about 3 yeares since when by reason of his unsupportable

losses by plundringe, free quarter, and otherwise beinge very much impoverished, and besides havinge often demanded the said Children to place them apprentices for the discharginge of himselfe and the said parishe, he did forbear the payment of the said weeklye taxe And further thereby sett forth that the said Agnes hath since hadd one other base Childe yet never receaued any legall punishment for either of the said offences ; Referred to the two next Justices to make an order and to take course that the said Agnes Bull may receive punishment.

16. Uppon readinge of the peticon of Josias Stone of Kilmington thereby shewing that he hath binn an Inhabitant and yet is in Kilmington aforesaid and hath there continued to and fro these five yeares past and hath donn service for the said parishe and hath lately married a wife in the said parish intendinge there to liue and reside yet since his marriage is by the said parishe debarred of any abidinge for him and his said wife there in any howse or lodginge for his mony ; Referred to the two next Justices of the peace to Kilmington to make such order herein as is most agreeable to Justice.

17. Uppon readinge of an order made by the Committee of this Countie the seaxteenth daie of December last wherby yt is Ordered that the poore people of Taunton St James now in Hestercombe howse should speedily remove into their parishes in which they formerly dwelt before they were sent into Hestercombe howse, this Court uppon examinacon of the said businesse doth conceaue the matter of the said Order to be so reasonable as that yt doth as much as in yt lyeth order that the said Order of the Committee bee in all points thereof observed and performed by the persons concerned in the premisses, and that Hestercombe tythinge bee from henceforth discharged of all Charge towards the releife of the said poore.

18. Uppon readinge the peticon of Richard Hawly who was Collector of the poore of the parishe of Wincalton in A<sup>o</sup>. dñi 1641 duringe wh<sup>ich</sup> tyme the towne was infected with the plague and the peticoner in respect of the many infected persons and the poverty of the place was inforced to laye out x*li*. out of his

owne purse over and above what hee receaved which is yet unpaid ; Referred to John Pyne, John Newton, and Marmaduke Jennings, Esq<sup>rs</sup> to doe therein as shall bee most agreeable to Justice.

19. This Court beinge moved for and on the behalfe of the parish of Yarlington that one Mary Martin whose parents are long since dead havinge about a yeare and halfe since removed out of the said parishe and settled with one William Martin her brother therein the parish of Ubley without any interrupcion in which parish shee hath an estate in revercon of her said brother in a tenment there but is now brought backe to the said parishe of Yarlington w<sup>th</sup>out any order or warrant where she hath noe freind or kindred to entertaine her but shee is like to bee Chargable to the said parishe and heretofore desired this Court to graunt an Order to remove her from the said parishe of Yarlington to Ubley in Case shee were not lawfully settled at Yarlington ;—Mr Hippisley and Mr Buckland to order therein as shall be most agreeable to justice.

20. Wheras this Court is Certified by John Pyne and Henry Henley two of his Maties Justics of peace of this Countie that the governor of the howse of Correcon of Taunton hath laid out the some of xij*li*. xs. for workinge tooles and other necessities for workinge for the said howse of Correcon ;—Order made for payment to the said governor by the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Western Division.

21. Uppon readinge of the Order of the Assizes held at Taunton the eighth of August last wherby yt appeareth that the towne of Wincalton Anno Dni 1642 was visited with the plaige and theruppon releueed by a five mile rate accordinge to the Statute in that behalfe, and that beinge concealed at Ivelchester Sessions Anno xvij<sup>o</sup> Caroli Rs. not to bee sufficient It was then and there ordered that xxx*li*. per weeke should bee raised in the said Countie by way of Rate for releife of the said towne of Wincalton and yt appearinge to the Court at the Assizes that there were severall somes of mony arreare on both the said Rates and that Thomas Ivy and Anselme Smart constables in the said yeare 1642 as allsoe in the yeare next before were out greate



somes of mony towards the releife of infected people over and aboue what they hadd receaued, the same Court was pleased to desire the two next Justices of the peace to Wincalton aforesaid to examine the said Constables accompts and yf they should finde any mony in arreares within the five myle Compasse to take course that yt might bee leveyed accordinge to the statute and for the arreares of the xxx*li*. per weeke the same Court did desire the Justices of the peace at the then next Sessions to take Course that the same might bee leveyed accordinge to lawe that soe the peticoner might bee satisfied as by the said Order appeareth ; Now forasmuch as the said Constables in respect there hath binn and is a want of Justices of the peace in that Division have not yet binn with any Justice of the peace touching this matter since the said order of Assises but doe desire this Court to take the whole into consideracon and afford them releife ; this Court doth rather thinke fitt to ascertaine to the said late Constables what Justice of the peace they shall have recourse unto in this behalfe theruppon nominatinge to them John Pyne John Newton and Marmaduke Jennings Esq<sup>rs</sup> to take the whole matter into examinacon and to certifie the true state therof at the next generall Sesns of the peace.

22. Uppon the readinge the peticon of Lewes Sweetinge one of the Cheife Constables of the hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane therby shewing that about fivue yeares since he was sworne to the office of Constable within the said hundred and hath ever since binn continued in the said office ; Referred to S<sup>r</sup> George ffarewell Kt and George Luttrell Esqr. if they see good to discharge the said Sweetinge he nominating a sufficient person within the same hundred to execute the same office in his stead.

23. Uppon readinge the peticon of Thomas Gale and David Jenkins late Constables of [Taunton] St. James in the said Countie therby showinge that by reason of the late visitacon of the said parishe by the plague the said parishe beinge in greate distresse peticoned the Comittee of this Countie by reason of the defect of Justics of peace for the releife of the poore infected in the said parishe which said Comittee ordered that xxx*li* weekly

should bee rayسد by a five mile Rate (vizt) within the hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane, North Curry Whitly Willetton freemanors Kingsbury west, north Petherton and Andersfeild, wheruppon the Constables of the said Hundreds made a Rate accordingly and appoynted Collectors, and by means of the said Collectors neglect there was not tenn pounds leveyed or Collected from the xvj<sup>th</sup> of July to the 28<sup>th</sup> of August then next followinge wherby the peticoners were constrayned to laie out of their owne purses in respect of the urgent necessity of the infected neere 140 *li*, wheruppon the peticoners peticoned the Judges at the last Assizes for releife therein who ordered that the two next Justices should accordinge to the said statute cause an indifferent Rate to bee made uppon all the Inhabitants within the said five miles which said next Justices uppon notice thereof did yssue out warrants for rating and Collectinge of the said monyes and diverse persons paid parte of their Rates and the peticoners receaued some parte therof yet they are out of purse 80 *li* and upwards and they knowe not how to recover the arreares without the ayd and assistance of this Court; It is therefore ordered that the persons who were formerly rated and have not fully paid their Rates doe further paie the same and that the Collectors in this behalfe do Collect and gather all arreares due and paie the same with what they haue alreddy receaued unto the peticoners towards satisfaccon of such monyes as they are out of Purse as aforesaid.

24. Uppon readinge the peticon of Robert Gatcombe of Pawlet thereby shewinge that within the said parishe the Custome is to Choose the office of tythingman yearly and that howse by howse and noe man to Continue in the said office aboue one whole yeare yet the peticoner beinge about two yeares and a quarter since Chosen tythingman of the said parish is not as yet discharged, although the said office by the Custome aforesaid was at Michelmas last by turne to bee borne by Captaine Nicholas Blake who ought by himselfe or tenant to performe the same; Mr. Hippley and Mr. Buckland or either of them to make such order therein as shall be most agreeable to justice.

25. The two next Justices to make an order respecting a child born in the parish of Publowe of Mary Horsington.

26. Uppon readinge of the peticon of the poore people in the Spittle howse in Brewton therby shewing that for these two yeares last past they haue not receaued one penny of such monyes as were usually heere to fore paid by order of Sessions and hadd not the master of the said spittle out of his owne purse supported them they hadd perished which the said master is not able to doe any longer; Referred to the Treasurer for hospitals for the Eastern Division and to afford such relief to the said poor as shall be fit.

27. Uppon readinge of the peticon of the Inhabitants of Hillfarrunce therby shewing that the said Inhabitants beinge about eleaven or twelue weekes visited with the plague a five myle rate for 16*l*. per monethe was assigned them out of the neighbouringe parishes for their releife the tenth parte whereof through the neglect of the Collector<sup>s</sup> was never receaued; Referred to S<sup>r</sup> George ffarewell knt and John Pyne Esq to call uppon them the Collectors and other officers and to examine the accounts and make such order for the speedy collecting of the arreares of the said Rates as to them shall seem meet.

28. Uppon hearinge the peticon of Edward Pegler of Sandford Orcas thereby shewing that he lived with Mr. Henry Winter of Sanford Orcas aforesaid as a hired servant for husbandry for which Mr. Winter was to paie him *iiij**l*. per annum but never paid him any soe there is due to him 22*l*. for releife wherin the said Pegler peticoned the Justics of the peace of this Court at the last Sessions helde at Ivelchester in this Countie who ordered that the said Mr. Winter should giue the said Pegler reasonable satisfacon which the said Mr. Winter hath not yet down; Referred to the two next Justices of the peace to call the said Winter before them and to examine his disobedience of the said order of Sessions, and farther to do therein as shall be most agreeable to justice.

29. Uppon readinge of the peticon of the Inhabitants of Aishpriors therby shewing that a vagrant woman beinge

delivered of a woman Childe within the parishe of north Petherton the said Child was about nine monethes since left under a hedge in the parishe of Aishpriors redde to parish which Childe the paricon<sup>rs</sup> of the said parishe of Aishpriors haue ever since maintained at Nurse the said pariconers of north Petherton refusinge to receaue the same Child; Referred to the two next Justices to make such order as shall bee most agreeable to justice.

30. This Court doth desire and authorize John Hippisley and John Carew Esq<sup>rs</sup> two of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Justices of the peace to call before them John Hollway gent late Countie Clarke to S<sup>r</sup> John Horner knt late high Sheriffe of this Countie to assure the Countie Court booke.

31. In the matter of a difference between the inhabitants of Chilcompton and Midsomer Norton concerning the settling of one Katherine Hill about to become the mother of a child; Order settling her in Chilcompton where the child was begotten.

32. Uppon readinge of the peticon of Robert Townsend Agnes Stround and John Horwood thereby shewing that one William Smyth gent hauinge obteyned execucon against the inhabitants of the hundred of Somerton for 41*l*. by reason of a Robbery there Comitted on the servant of the said William Smyth the same execution was leveyed uppon the peticoners goods and vppon the goods of other persons, wheruppon the peticoners obtained warrants from the next justices of the peace to levey the same monyes by a preporconable rate to bee layd on all the inhabitants of the said hundred, but by reason of the late troubles much of the same monyes could not be leveyed accordinge to the tenor of the said warrants, and Diverse tythingmen who haue receaued other parte of the same monyes doe deteine the same whereby the peticoners are out of their monyes to their greate losse; Referred to the two next Justices to the hundred of Somerton to make such order therein as shall bee meete,



33. Uppon readinge the peticon of the inhabitants of the parishe of Thurlbeere theerby shewinge that they havinge receaued warrant under the hands of Sr George ffarewell knt and Mr. Jennings for the levyinge of the some of 3*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. towards the releife of the poore infected people of Taunton St. James which was a burden too great for the peticoners to undergoe, and therefore desired to bee freed from the paymt<sup>t</sup> of the said 3*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*.

34. Uppon the peticon of the inhabitants of Kingston Seymour shewinge that whereas one George Moore who formerly lived in the said parishe rann awaie thence and left three smale children behinde him to the greate Charge of the said parishe where ever since they haue lived the said Moore havinge ever since lived within the parishe of Berrow and as yt is reported of abilitie to mainetaine his Charge himselfe; Ordered that the Overseers of the poore of Kingston Seymour do take care that the two youngest of the said children be forthwith sent to Berrow where the father now inhabits and in case they shall not be there received, the two next justices upon complaint of the inhabitants of Kingston Seymour to take such course for the performance of this order as they in their discretions shall think fit.

35. Whereas the parisioners of Higham and Netherham haue peticoned this Court that Samuel Balch beinge formerly overseer there hath receaued xix*l*. beinge parte of a legacy given by the Lady Hext to the use of the poore of the said parishes of which said some the said Balch hath disbursed but eleaven pounds as is alleadged by the said peticoner and for that the said peticoners haue likewise peticoned therein pretendinge that there hath binn some sinister dealinge used by the said Balch concerninge the children of the widdowe Raynolds of Higham aforesaid; The examination of the premisses referred to Sr George ffarewell K<sup>t</sup> to Convent the said Balch before him and such others as are Concerned herein and examine the differences and yf the said Balch shall bee found refractory in obeyinge this order in either the above said causes, to bind the said Balch to the next Sessions there to answer his contempt.



36. Peticon of Richard Leaker therby shewing that hee hath binn one of the Constables of the hundred of Andersfeild for these three yeares last past and desiringe now to bee discharged for that one Mr. Thomas Colvord about Michaelmas last was twelue monthes was chosen to be Constable in the peticoners place, but before hee tooke his Oath went to liue out of the said hundred ; The matter of the said peticon referred to next justice to that hundred to swear a fit man to be presented to him by the petitioner to take on him the office of constable.

37. The complaint of the parish of Evercreech respecting a child born there.

38. Joseph Scuddemore to build him a house upon the waste at Marksbury in such place of the wastes of the said parishe as the pariconrs of the same parishe with the advice of the said Lady Ann Popham shall thinke meete.

39. Complaint made by the overseers of the parish of Marke praying to be discharged from a child born there and likely to become chargeable to the parish.

40. Wheras Stephen Palmer, Edward Savory, Thomas Howse, and Roger Gubb, all of Weston in Zoyland, have without authority or licence of any justice of the peace presumed each of them to keepe a Comon typplinge howse in Weston in Zoyland aforesaid and were thereof (uppon their owne Confession) all of them at this present Sessions convicted ; Ordered that William Millard Constable of the hundred of Whitley shall levey by distresse of the goods of the severall aforesaid persons the some of xx<sup>s</sup> a peece, and if not paid all and every the aboued said offenders to bee openly whipped.

41. Uppon the generall complaint of the pariconers of north Petherton of the multitude of Alehowses in that parishe to their great prejudice ; S<sup>r</sup> George ffarewell knt desired to take speedy course for the suppression of the same Alehowses.

42. Petition of Thomas Illary and other the workemen employed about the repaireing of the Common gaol at Ivelchester

for this Countie shewing that at the last Sessions of the peace for this Countie on their peticon for satisfacon of monyes due to them for their worke and disbursments about the gaol an Order for reference was made to Sir John Horner knt. Marmaduke Jenninges and John Whitby Esq<sup>rs</sup>., or any two of them to examine the accompts of the peticoners and to Certifie the same to the [Treasurers] of the spitalls who were to satisfie the peticoners yf they hadd soe much surplus in their hands; the said referrees have not mett wherby the said accompts are not examined, the peticoners are in greate distresse for want of their monyes; The Treasurers of hospitals to examine the accounts and to satisfy the petitioners or to certify this Court of the premisses at the next general Sessions.

43. Peticon of Christofer Symes of Easton thereby shewing that hee beinge seized of a parcel of ground in Easton, one Thomas Willmott procured him to graunt him parte thereof to the value of xls<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. per ann. for five pounds which the said Willmot was by agreement to holde untill the peticoners had repayed the said 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. but the said Willmott payed only fower pounds and six shillinges of the said v<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. yet hath the said Willmot held the same ground for theis six years last past soe that hee is oversatisfied his said monyes by seaven pounds fowerteene shillinges, and still deteines the possession of the same grounds, the peticoner beinge a very poore man is not able to contend in Lawe; Mr. Hippisley and Mr. Buckland to examine the premisses and to settle the same or to certify their opinions therein at the next Sessions.

44. Complaint of the parish of Wedmore respecting a base child, referred to the next justice of the peace to the said parishe.

45. Peticon for and on the behalfe of one Stephen a poore childe borne within the liberty of the Cathedrall Church of Wells, and there left not beinge knowne who is the father or mother thereof for maintenance from the said liberty the said child havinge binn hitherto releiued by one John Emery and his wife by whome yt was taken in out of Charity this Court doth order and authorize the Constable of the said liberty takeinge to

his assistance two or three of the ablest men within the same to make an equall rate uppon the same liberty for the affordinge of the said Child competent maintenance untill yt bee able by yts labor to mainetaine yt selfe, and allsoe for the recompencinge and satisfyinge of the said Emery and his wife for the releivinge of the said Child as aforesaid.

46. This Court, findinge that severall Constables and other officers and severall other persons under Color of beinge Collectors haue duringe these sadd tymes of distraccon and Civill warr receaued seaurall soms of mony of diverse of his Maties<sup>ies</sup> subiects within this Countie both duringe the tyme the enemy comanded the Countie and since to the great greevance of many, doth order and declare that every person havinge cause of Complaint herein maie repaire to the two next justices of the peace to their respective habitacons or abode for their releife in the premisses, who are ordered to call every such officer and collector before them and to take their accompts and certifie the same at the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee helde for this Countie and farther to deale with the officers and collectors as the case doth require and the lawe permitt to thende the parties greived maie bee releiued therein.

47. Uppon Complaint made of severall arreares allsoe of Coate and Conduct mony this Court doth thinke fitt to extend the said order thereunto, and the justics of peace are desired to take notice hereof as well as the said monyes receaued since these distraccons.

48. Uppon readinge of an Order of this Court the 6<sup>th</sup> of October xvj *Car. Rs.* [1640] wherby a Certificate made by severall justices of the peace of this countie for charginge of certaine lands of Sr John Strangwayes k<sup>t</sup> called St Clares and lying in Somerton with the paym<sup>t</sup> of severall Rates and usuall taxes as formerly yt hadd down is confirmed and uppon Complaint made unto this Court for and on the behalfe of the parishe of Pitney that in regard of the antiquity of the said Order they could not gett obedience therunto, this Court doth thinke fitt to revive and confirme the said order to all intents and

purposes and in case any person or persons shall refuse to yeelde obedience therevnto the next justice of the peace to Somerton is desired to binde such person and persons to the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this Countie then and there to answeere for such refusall.

49. This Court beinge moved for and on the behalfe of Mary Mullens touchinge the possession of messuages or tenements eight gardens five score acres of land tenn acres of meddow forty acres of pasture and forty acres of ffurse and heath with the apptinancs in Compton Dando, Littleton, Holecombe, and Edford, forceably taken and deteyned from her as shee alleadgeth by Robte Certaine of high Littleton in this Countie laborer, Edith his wife, Walter Leversedge of Compton Dando, gent., James Coxe of Chelwood in the said Countie, gent., Henry Clement of Compton Dando aforesaid mason, and Nathaniell Hedges of high Littleton aforesaid husbandman, and uniustly deteyned by them under some feined and pretended title this Court dothe therefore desire that John Buckland and Richard Jones, Esq<sup>rs</sup>. will be pleased accordinge to the statute in this behalfe made and provided to inquire of the said forceable entry and deteyner by a jury of the countie and farther to doe therein as by the said statutes is directed and required.

50. Peticon of Margaret Penny of Milton Clevedon widdow thereby shewinge that shee hadd taken out of her ground by one John Cary of Milton her sheepefold and the peticoner her selfe by him beaten. And allsoe that a way belonginge to her leadinge to a ground called Eastfeild is by the said Mr. Cary taken away by means wherof she beinge destitute of a way to her said ground hath lost the benefitt of the last sowinge season wherby shee hath receaued very much prejudice; Referred to the next justice of the peace to convent the said parties before him and certifie the truth of the same at the next generall Sessions.

51. Uppon the generall Complaint of the Inhabitants of this Countie of the multitude of Ale howses swarminge in every parish notwithstandinge some indevor used for the suppression

thereof to the greate prejudice of the inhabitants neere them this Court doth desire the two next justics of peace to the place where such Alehowses are maintained uppon the Complaint of any the inhabitants greeved by reason of such disorderly and unlicensed Alehowses to take the most speedy course for the suppression of the same, punishinge the offendrs as the lawe doth admitt of and allowe.

52. Upon the frequent Complainte of the greate encrease of late of the number of Malters and the excessive quantities of Barley daylie by them converted into Malt whereby not onely multitudes of unlicensed Alehowses are every where supported, But also the prices of Corn are much inhaunced to the greate detriment of the poore in the tyme of dearth and scarcity ; This Court hath thought fitt to order As followeth :

*Imprimis.*—That noe Malter either by himselfe or by any other person or persons whatsoever with his knowledge consent or privity or by any other wayes or meanes directly or indirectly shall sell utter or deliver or cause to be sold uttered or delivered unto any unlicensed Alehowse kept within this County or unto any other person or persons to his or her use any Malt except it be in open Markett.

*Item.*—That noe Malter either by himselfe or by anie other person with his knowledge consent or privity or by anie other wayes or means directly or indirectly shall in any open Markett sell utter or deliver or cause to be sold uttered or delivered unto any person within this County which of late hath bin or now is or hereafter shalbe commonly knowne suspected reputed or taken to be an unlicensed Alehowsekeeper. Any quantity of Malt other then for the Convenience and necessary use and expence of his or her household onely.

*Item.*—That if any person shall offend in the premisses that then and from thencefourth such Malter shalbe adiudged to be hereby suppressed and discharged from any further converting of Barley into Malt for the space of three yeeres ensueinge.

*Item.*—That if anie person offending in the premisses (after notice to him given of such his suppressinge under the hand of anie one justice of the peace of this County to whome the said offence shalbe informed) shall notwithstanding refuse to obey



such his suppressing and shall persist to convert Barly into Malt that then every such person be bound to the next Sessions there to receive his due punishment by the Statute in that behalfe provided.

*Item.*—That the High Sherriffe of this County be desired to cause his undersherriffe to take Care for the publicacon of this order in all Markett Townes and noted places of Malting within this County and that the High Constables cause the same to be published in each Tything within their respective Hundreds which said Constables are required to obey the Direcon and Comaund of the Sherriffe in this behalfe.

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GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD THE KING HELD AT IVELCHESTER the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th days of April in the year of the reign of our Lord Charles by the grace of God, &c., the 23rd (1647), Before John Buckland, Esq., John Preston, Esq., Charles Steynings, Esq., John Whittby, Esq., Robert Gough, Esq., John Carew, Esq., Edward Baber, Esq., & Marmaduke Jennings, Esq.

1. Discharge of Mary Chapney's recognizance upon submission and obedience towards the keeping and maintenance of a child.

2. Forasmuch as this Court hath receaued many Informacons against Samuell Lambert of the parishe of Milbronporte lately sworne Constable for the liberty of Kingsbury Regis within the same parishe rendringe him uncaple for the execucon of the said office, in particuler that he hath binn actually in Armes against the parliament, doth desire and authorize John Whitby and Robert Gough Esq<sup>rs</sup> to take the same matter into Consideracon and to sweare an other Constable in the place and stead of the said Samuel Lambert yf they see iust cause.

3. Proceedings touching the settlement of Mary Martin who had been brought to Yarlinton from Ubley without order or warrant [see last Wells Sessions, no. 19.]

4. Peticon of Elizabeth Singer shewing that about twenty six yeares since shee was married to one William Singer who had an estate in a tenement in the parishe of Lullington for terme of his life where they liued until his death which was about three yeares now last past since which shee hath binn beholdinge to her friends and kindred sometymes in one parishe and sometymes in an other to giue her entertainement as a guest never havinge binn settled in any place save Lullington and now havinge taken a howse in Lullington aforesaid certain pariconers of the same place oppose her in cominge thither ; Order that the said Elizabeth bee permitted to return and dwell at Lullington in case the said parish should not show any sufficient cause at the next general Sessions.

5. Appeal by John Young against an order made at Wells Sessions touching the child of Mary Horsington.

6. Peticons of the inhabitants of North Petherton touching the settlement of a base child at the instance of the parishioners of Ashpriors. [S.R., lxxx, 12.]

7. Certificate of the inhabitants of the parishe of Cucklington wherby it appeareth that they have not all binn charged with the keepinge or breedinge upp of Sibill a base child.

8. Wheras the pariconers of North Petherton have peticoned this Court therein shewing that their parishe hath binn longe infected with the plague and that the head constable and other the Cheife officers in the parishe haue expended greate somes in mony in releife of the poore sicke people soe infected who otherwise would have broken forth into severall parishes adjacent and consequently would have infected the countrie round about ;— Desire and authorize that Mr. Jennings and Mr. Newton the two next justices to make an order for a general and equal rate to be made in the whole parish of North Petherton.

9. Uppon readinge the peticon of the inhabitants of Michel Creech shewing that the high waie for which they were presented at Bridgwater Sessions ought to bee repaired by the

owners of Ham Mills as they are able to prove but could not possibly gett their witnesses hither to prove the same, and soe are unprepared to prosecute the triall of the traverse at this Sessions, and therefore humbly praie a suspencon of the said triall untill the next generall Sessions to bee helde at Taunton which desire this Court holdeth reasonable, they givinge new Recognizance to prosecute their traverse and doth order the same accordingly and doe awarde a *venire facias de novo* for the bringinge in a jury to the same Traverse at Taunton.

10. Uppon Consideracon hadd of the peticon of Joseph Lange and severall the Inhabitants of the towne of Queene Camell herby desiringe that the said Joseph Lange beinge an honest poore laborer and havinge a wife and two smale Children might haue libertie to erect a Cottage uppon a wast ground in the towne of Queene Camell and of a graunt produced under the hand and seale of SrHumfry Mildmay of Danbury in the Countie of Essex knt. Lord of the said Mannor unto the said Josph Lange of the said wast ground within the liberty to build a Cottage thereon to hold for 99 yeares yf the said Joseph Lange Joseph his sonn and Thomas his brother or any of them shall soe longe liue; It is assented unto and ordered by this Court that the said Joseph Lange have libertie to erect and build a Cottage on the said wast ground for the habitacon of himselfe for his wife and afterwards the same shalbe converted to the use of such other poore people of the said parish of Queene Camell as shall bee there placed in accordinge to the statute in this behalfe made and provided.

11. Peticon of Joane Weekes thereby shewinge that in the thirteenth yeare of his Maties Raigne that now is by order of Sessions shee hadd a maide Childe placed to her to bee kept and brought upp the mother of which Childe was executed at the Assizes before, and farther that the peticoner is wantinge of soe much of the weekly some of six pounds per ann. proporconed towards the keepinge of the said Childe as mounteth unto x*li*. xs*ss*. besides she desireth some allowance extraordinary for bringinge the said Child to bee fitt to gett her livinge, which monyes by the intent of the said Order of Sessions was to haue binn paid by the Treasurers of the Hospitalls for the tyme beinge,

—Referred unto Marmaduke Jennings and John Newton Esq<sup>rs</sup> for examination and to certify how they find the same at the next general Sessions.

12. The examination, settlement, and final determination as to a child born at South Petherton referred to the two next justices of the peace. [S.R., lxxx, 31.]

13. Peticon of the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of the parish of Cheddar shewing that one Gabriel Pathmore of the said parish estrangeth himself from his wife and neglecteth to afford her maintenance residing at Milverton 20 miles from her to the greate charge of Cheddar parishe.

John Buckland and Thomas Hodges Esq<sup>rs</sup> desired to examine settle and order the same according to law.

14. Wheras the poore people of the hospitall of Glaston haue peticoned this Court that their accostomed paie from the Treasurers of hopitalls for the Countie hath binn kept backe by the space of three yeares last past wherby their distresse is very greivous in regard of the greate prizes of all sorts of Corne;

Richard Jones Esq<sup>r</sup> the new Treasurer for hospitals of the Eastern Division to consider their sadd Condiscon and to paie them mony out of the stocke delivered to him as hee in his discrecon shall thinke fitt accordinge to the necessity of the poore people in that hospitall.

15. Wheras this Court is informed that John Poyton governor of the howse of Correcon of Shepton Mallet is behinde in his arreares due to him as wages for keepinge the said howse ; —Order made that the said governor should collect and receive the arrears due at Christmas last by the last Treasurers accompt in case Richard Jones Esqr. Treasurer of the hospitals for the Eastern Division should consent.

16. Wheras Complaint is made to this Court by Henry Collins and John Parsons late Constables of the hundred of North Curry that they havinge paid all the hospitall and meighmed souldier mony for the said hundred for one whole

yeare beginninge at Christmas 1643 and endinge at Michaelmas 1644 and the said Henry Collens beinge Churchwarden of the said parishe of North Curry for this last yeare did paie all the monyes due to the said Hospitalls and meighmed souldiers for the said parishe of North Curry since Michas 1644 and now the said hundred and parishe of North Curry refuse to paie their Rates for the raisinge of the same againe; Referred to the two next justices to the hundred to examine the premisses and to cause one or more rate or rates to be made if they find cause in the said hundred and parish.

17. Sr George ffarewell knt John Newton and Marmaduke Jennings Esq<sup>rs</sup> to take and receive the accompt of Charles Steyninges Esqr late Treasurer for the hospitals for the Western Division.

18. Ordered that John Whitby Esqr one of his Maties Justices of the peace doe receaue of Colonell Harbine late treasurer of the meighmed souldiers of this County fifty pounds of the surplusage mony accruinge in his yeare and doe cause forty pounds herof to bee employed in and about the palinge of the Gaol yard and other needefull repacons of the Gaol accordinge to the direcons of the Judges this last Assizes, and the tenn pounds residue hereof doe paie unto Richard Jones Esqr now Treasurer for the Esterne Division of this Countie for the hospitalls, to bee by him employed in and about the rebuildinge of one end of the howse of Correcon at Shepton Mallet.

19. Peticon of the inhabitants of Pitney and Warne complaineinge thereby that they are shutt out of a way leadinge from Warne into the Common Moore through the grounds of William Hawker and John Hawker there, which way they and their predecessors inhabitants haue tyme out of mind enjoyed, this Court doth order both the said Hawkers to laie open the said waie as formerly, and to permitt the said Inhabitants to enjoy the same accordinge as they haue used to doe or otherwise to appeare at the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this Countie and shew unto this Court good matter to the Contrary.



20. Uppon the peticon of Richard Gatterne of Pitney shewing that hee heretofore bought of one John Govis the Executor of Alce Westlake widow since deceased all that barley, oates, beanes, and pease, which then were growinge on the ground late of the said Alce at the tyme of her death and all the goods and howshold stuffe which were in the howse late of the said Alce at the tyme of her decease for which the peticoner was to paie to the said Govis yf hee should bee livinge at the daie of paiment by them agreed the some of xx*li.* before which daie the peticoner Gatterine alleadge that the said Govis died and that therefore hee ought not to paie the said xx*li.*, yet the xx*li.* is required of him by Cananiel Barnard<sup>1</sup> Clark and one John Chard who haue comenced action against your peticoner for the same; This Court doth desire that John Newton and Marmaduke Jennings Esq<sup>rs</sup> do Convent the said Mr. Barnard and Chard and such others as are concerned in the businesse before them and examine the premisses and mediate and end betweene the said parties yf they cann, or otherwise to certifie their proceedings herein at the next Sessions.

21. John Moore of Marshe in the parish of Evell as to a former order respecting a base child placed with him the mother of which child was executed for felony in this countie at the Assizes (See Wells Sessions Order 9). John Newton Esq<sup>r</sup> to take such course therein as in his discretion he shall think fit or otherwise certify to the next Sessions. [S.R., lxxx, 38.]

22. Further proceedings towards collecting the five mile rate for Taunton St. James; yt is the opinion of this Court that the said five miles are to bee computed according to Common reputacon and not by measure.

23. Wheras this Court is informed (uppon the peticon of the Inhabitants within the hundred of Tintenhull) that the highwaies are very founderous and in decay by reason that the greatest landholders and men of the best estates either liue out of the

<sup>1</sup> Rector of Pitney, 1625-1669.

hundred, and those in the hundred keepe noe ploughes wherby when notice is given for cominge to highwaies there is little or noe service donn the repairinge the same waies, this Court doth order that all such landholders as have ploughs or the quantity of a ploughland or more, when the said Hundred shall with their ploughs come or send to that service as often as due notice shall be given accordinge to the statute in this behalfe, And in case any shall prove refractory in this particuler the next Justice of Peace upon complaint are desired to deal with them according to law.

24. Wheras yt was ordered at the last Assizes that the now keeper of the Gaol Mr Dennis should bee from thenceforth keeper of the howse of Correcçõn at Ivelchester, this Court doth concurr herein and farther that the said Mr Dennis as keeper of the howse of Correcçõn shall receaue and enjoy all such fees and other profits as haue binn accustomed to bee paid from the Treasurers of the hospitalls to the keeper of the howse of Correcçõn for the tyme beinge.

25. Wheras Complaint is made to this Court by Robert Prankard of Milbronport in this Countie that he is over Charged with the keepinge of fower children whose parents are deceased and the said Children not beinge of abilitie to worke yt beinge ordered by John Pyne and John Buckland Esq<sup>rs</sup> that the said Prankard should bee at the Charge in keepinge two of them and that Margaret Wilkins of Tintenhull should mainetaine the other two notwithstandinge Prankard is at the whole charge in maintaining the fower this Court doth desire Mr Jennings Mr Gough and Mr Whitby to examine the abilities both of Prankard and Margaret Wilkins and to Certifie the same at the next Sessions.—[S.R., lxxx, 28.]

26. Wheras diverse parishioners of Henstridge haue petitioned this Court therin shewing that the highwaies within the said parishe and tythinge are very foundeours and in decaille by reason that many of the greatest land holders and men of the best estates within the same parishe which formerly kept ploughes there doe now keepe none and refuse to contribute any thing towards the repaçon of the said highwaies but leaue

the whole burden therof to the peticoners; the said highways to be repaired and amended by the persons having estates in the said parish or tithing proportionably: in default the surveyors to inform the two next justices, the persons making default to be proceeded against according to law.

27. Whereas the pore hospitall people of Langport Westover haue peticoned this Court settinge forth therein their sadd Condiçon for want of their paie, beinge three yeares in arrear and that their howse is much in decay wherby they are like to perishe The two next justices to inquire into the matter and to certify to the Treasurers of hospitals who are desired to afford some present relief until the next Sessions.

28. George Smyth and others having refused to pay their rate for the reparation of Huish bridge the two next justices are to send for them and bind them to the next Sessions there to answer their contempts. [See Bridgwater Sessions, Order 4.]

29. The workmen lately employed about the repairing of the Common Gaol at Ilchester having received but £10 of the £44 for wages due to them, the workmen's accounts were ordered to be examined and satisfied.

30. John Dyer of Chewton a very poor man having a wife and children and no place of habitation "soe that hee is like to fall into greate miserie for want thereof" having obtained the leave and consent of the most of the inhabitants, to erect and build him a cottage for habitation on some part of the waste of the manor of Chewton "neere the towne at the end of Agnes Parsons her withibed," "provided he procured the leave and approbation of Sr Henry Walgraue Barronet."

31. Uppon the petition of Richard Ormerod shewing that he the said Ormerod hath continued two yeares longer in this office then other tythingmen his predecessors and cannot yet bee discharged of his office and for that the said Ormerod hath disbursed severall somes of mony duringe his office in conductinge souldiers at severall tymes to severall places in this

Countie and cann haue noe reparation for his greate charge ; Referred to S<sup>r</sup> George Farewell knt and George Luttrell Esqr to make choice of a new tythingman, and to take such course for the reparation of his disbursements in the general service as shall be fit.

32. Uppon readinge the peticon of John Clarke an inhabitant of the parishe of Trent therby shewing that one Edith Durnford a poore Child of the said parish was in 1643 bound an Apprentice to your peticoner by the said parish until shee should accomplish the age of one and twenty yeares and that the peticoner tooke the Child without mony and now she beinge taken lame by meanes of sicknesse about a yeare since and still soe continuinge wherby shee is not able to do yo<sup>r</sup> peticoner service yt is prayed that the peticoner maie bee freed from farther keepinge of the saide Childe the peticoner beinge contented to take one Robert Wills another poor childe of the same parishe apprentice on the same termes hee tooke the said Elizabeth Durnford ; this court doth declare themselves very unwillinge to drawe any case of this nature into president for thee tyme to come, but beinge by some persons of Credit of the said parish assured that the lamenesse of the said Edith was not occasioned by any ill usage of the peticoner and withall conceivinge the peticoners proposicon of takeinge another poore Childe to savor of much Charity and honesty, doe in this case order that the said John Clarke takeinge the said Robert Wills apprentice accordinge to his said proposicon bee discharged and freed from the further keepinge or maine-taineinge of the said Edith Durnford.

33. Uppon the readinge of the peticon of the poore people in the spittle howse in Brewton therby shewing that since Christmas last was two yeares they have receaued but one quarter paie of such mony as was theretofore paid unto them by order of Sessions from the treasurer of the hospitalls of the easterne Division and that hadd not the master of the said spittle by his labor and endeauors supported them they hadd utterly perished ; John Hippisley Esqr late Treasurer of the hospitals of the Eastern Division to certify the new treasurer Mr Jones what money he hath paid to them and that Mr. Jones if he find cause will afford the petitioners such farther allowance as he shall think fit.



34. Petition of the inhabitants of the parishe of Rode therby shewing that yt pleased God to visite them with the pestilence wherin their died 28<sup>o</sup> psons betweene August and ffebruary in the yeare of our Lord 1645, and that their parish consisting of 800 soules in number at the least beinge very poore, and a rate in the tyme of extreame necessity beinge made by the Comittee of the Countie that the neighboringe parishes should contribute to the same rate is altogether contemned and slighted; the rate ratified and confirmed by the Court and John Aishe John Hippiisley and John Carewe Esq<sup>rs</sup> or any two of them to examine the disobedience and to relieve the petitioners if they can otherwise to bind those refractory to answer touching the same to the next Sessions.

35. Wheras this Court hath binn informed by peticoninge that the highwaies of Bratton beinge of large extent and that of late yeares since these troubles through the greate neglect of repairinge the said highwaies are become very foundeouse and will neede greater helpe then formerly for the amendm<sup>t</sup> of them, and that there are divers livinges of good value in the said parishe Bratton which hath formerly kept betweene them fve ploughs at the least for the carrijnge of Stones for the raparacon of the said high waies, and now at this present there is but one; Order that the said highways shall be forthwith repared and amended, and that all such persons as have estates within the said parish or tithing shall find ploughs and workemen for the reparation of the said highways according to the proportion of their several estates and if any make default the Surveiors of the said ways are to inform the two next justices of the peace of such default who on complaint are desired to proceed against such persons making default according to law.

36. Petition of Nicholas Hicks wherby he desireth to haue some materiall witnesses examined touchinge the base childe laid unto him by Precilla Sheppard.

37. It is Ordered at this present Sessions that the compoiçõn made by the new treasurer for maymed Souldiers with olde penconers bee confirmed by the Court in regard of the slacke



payment of monyes to the said treasurer for that the olde penconers haue a longe tyme receaued large pencons, and that the number of new pencon<sup>rs</sup> are much increased by meanes of this unnaturall warr; it is Ordered at this present Sessions that John Webbe James Classon John Ball and Peter Lobbe their pencōns shall cease both in regard they haue other meanes of subsistance as allsoe yt they haue binn active in the late warr against the Parliament. This Court doth order that the severall pencons of Captaine Allen and Henry Martine shall be reduced as followeth, vizt. the said Allen to bee reduced to tenn pounds p. annum and Martin's to eight pounds p. ann. in regard of the greate necessities of newe penconers occasioned by this late unhappy warr.

40. It is ordered by the Court that the names of such maymed souldiers as are listed to receaue pencons accordinge to the somes to their names annexed bee entered and that the same souldiers bee and continue penconers untill farther order and in the meane tyme their Certificates are to bee thoroughly perused.

41. It is Ordered that five pounds (laid out by the treasurer of maymed souldiers towards the repaire of the Bridewell at Shepton Mallett) bee allowed to the said treasurer on his accompt, this Court beinge informed that the said howse is much in decay for want of repacōn, and not fitt to receaue such persons as are committed to the governor's Charge and Custody.

42. John Newton Esq<sup>r</sup> is chosen treasurer of the Western Division, and Richard Jones Esq<sup>r</sup> is chosen treasurer of the Easterne Division, and Edward Baber and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> are entreated to take the Accompts of John Hipplesley Esq<sup>r</sup> the late treasurer of the Easterne division.

43. Att this Sessions John Preston Esq<sup>r</sup> is chosen treasurer of the meighmed souldiers, and Edward Baber and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> are desired to take the Accompt of the late Treasurer.

44. Orders made by severall Justices of the peace touchinge bastard children, and retourned in att this Sessions of the peace. Signed by John Buckland and John Pyne.—[*S.R.*, lxxx, 11, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27.]

45. A note of such olde penconers as are to Continue in paie.

John Ellis 30 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	06-00-00
Henry Martin 50 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	10-00-00
Gyles Winterhay 26 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup>	...	...	03-06-08
Henry Wellman 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
William Stronge 26 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	03-06-08
James ffarre 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
Andrewe Phillips 30 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	06-00-00
Willim Webbe 10 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-00-00
Mr. Edward Allen	...	...	...
Mr. William Taynt	...	...	...
James Bacon 13 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-13-4
Arthur Wadland 10 <sup>s</sup> p quarter	...	...	02-00-00
Edward Hobbes 25 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	05-00-00
Henry Pittard 13 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-13-04
John Toogood 13 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-13-04
William James 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
Walter Richard 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
Thomas Hill 10 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-00-00

A note of such Olde Penconers as are put out of pencon.

John Batt 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
Peter Cobb 16 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	03-06-08
John Webb 50 <sup>s</sup> [ <i>sic</i> ] p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	05-00-00
James Glasson 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00

A list of such pensioners as are dead.

Richard Carter 30 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	06-00-00
Henrie Yeo 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
Henry Soper 30 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	06-00-00

A note of such as haue not demaunded paie at  
Christmas 1646, presumed to bee dead.

Walter Cleeves 16 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	03-06-08
Israel Batt 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
Candall Meares 25 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	05-00-00
Richard Gale 25 <sup>s</sup> p quarter	...	...	05-00-00

A note of such pensioners as are newly taken into pension.

George Burrowe (his right hand shott of)			
20 <sup>s</sup> p quarter	...	...	04-00-00
James Gill (his right Arme lost) 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>			04-00-00
Thomas Croker (his left Arme maymed)			
1 <sup>li</sup> 5 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	05-00-00
Thomas Lorgan (his right Arme maymed)			
15 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	03-00-00
George Knight (his both hands maymed)			
20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	04-00-00
William Allen shott through the head,			
13 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-13-04
Edward Gyles (who is to bee vewed at Taun-			
ton Sessions) 15 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	03-00-00
Christofer Seawell (shott in the head) 13 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup>			
p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-13-04
Edward Shorland (both his hands shott)			
13 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-13-04
Henry Combe his thigh maymed x <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>			02-00-00
Robert Guest lost his left hand 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>			04-00-00
Tobias Daniell lost his left hand 20 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>			04-00-00
Arthur Langdon (his right Arme maymed)			
15 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	03-00-00
Robte Bailly (his left Arme hurt 10 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>			02-00-00
John Davy left hand maymed 10 <sup>s</sup> p quart <sup>r</sup>			02-00-00
John Stafford left hand maymed 13 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup>			
p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-13-04
William Bridge right hand maymed 10 <sup>s</sup>			
p quart <sup>r</sup>	...	...	02-00-00

46. This Court desired the graund Jury to present their opinions what wages they thought fitt to bee sett and assessed for laborers for this yeare, respect beinge hadd to the present tymes, who made a presentment in these words vizt.

The presentmt of the grand Enquest.

haie harvest.

To a mower of grasse to take p diem	...	00-01-04
To a mower of grasse havinge meate & drinke	...	00-00-08
To a man for makinge of haie findinge		
himselfe ... ..	...	00-00-10
To a woman laborer finding her selfe	...	00-00-08
To a man laboringe havinge meat and		
drinke ... ..	...	00-00-06
To a woman havinge meate and drinke	...	00-00-04

Corne harvest.

To a man findinge himselfe p diem	...	00-01-04
To a woman findinge her selfe	...	00-01-00
To a man havinge meate and drinke	...	00-00-08
To a woman havinge meate and drinke	...	00-00-06

John Tucker	Barnard Gould
Ben. Randall	John Fawkner.
Andrew Parsons of Camell	Johes Hodges
Geo. Smyth	Tho. Collins.
Andrew Parsons of Ivel-	Rob. Webb.
chester	Rob. Chapell.
Arthur Dawe	Guy Keymer.
Wm. Goodden	John Gould.

which presentment beinge read and taken into Consideraçon this Court doth approve therof and as much as in them lyeth order the same Rates to stand as a rule and to bee observed by all psons Concerned herein.

GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr, namely the thirteene, the fourteenth and fifteenth days of July in the reign of our Lord Charles, by the grace of God king, &c., the twenty-third (1647), before John Buckland, John Pyne, John Preston, Richard Jones, George Luttrell, Marquise Jennings and John Newton, Esqrs.

1. Uppon readinge the petiçõn of Jane Exam wherby yt appeareth that one William Hillard and other pariconers of the parishe of Milton disturbed the settlement of the petitioner at Milton aforesaid after shee hadd binn lawfully settled there by two Justices of the peace accordinge to the statute 39<sup>o</sup> Eliz.; Recommended to the two next justices to examine the said disturbance and to take care for punishing the offenders.

2. Petition of the overseers of Publowe desiring to have an order made by two justices touching a base child.

3. Wheras Robert Brice of East Pennard was bound to this Sessõns for refusinge to paie rates for church and poore for the tithinge of Lottisham for tenn acres of meddowe ground which lyeth within the same tythinge but in the parishe of East Pennard, And the said Brice and former occupiers of the said ground (as yt is alleaged) heretofore paid all manner of tythinge rates to Lottisham but all rates to Churchs and poore to East Pennard untill nowe they are required by Lottisham; John Hippisley and John Carew Esq<sup>rs</sup> will be pleased to convent some of the ablest men of both places and settle the difference if they can or otherwise to certify their opinion therein at the next Sessions.

4. Wheras this Court is peticoned that George Wills of Bromfeild tanner was presented at the last Court Leete for the hundred of Andersfeild to bee tythingman of the tythinge of Heathcombe within the said Hundred who notwithstanding refuses to execute the said office; Ordered that the said Wills shall be and continue tythingman for the said tything and sworn accordingly, and in case the said Wills shall refuse to



undertake the said office the Constables of the said hundred shall apprehend him and convey him to the next justice of the peace to be bound until the next General Sessions to show cause why he should not undertake the office.

5. The reference made at the last quarter Sessions to Sir George Farewell knt and George Luttrell Esqr as to the settling of a child between the parishes of North Petherton and Ashpriors referred to the two next justices to the parish of North Petherton ; the said Sr George ffarwell dying shortly after the Session.

6. Whereas by an order made at the last Assizes held for the countie by the right Hon. Henry Rolle one of the judges at the westerne Circuit upon the peticon of the inhabitants of Wiveliscombe, all the adiacent parishes within five miles compasse of the said towne should paie their severall proporcons of a weekly rate of xx*li*. towards the releife and maintenance of the infected people of the same place, the execution of which order was likewise referred to the two next justices of the peace to issue forth their warrants for collecting the same and to add therunto yf neede should require. And wheras it appeareth to this Court upon the peticon of Edward Marshe and others, inhabitants of Wiveliscombe aforesaid, that the severall parishes of Nettlecombe, Milverton, Sanford, Thorne and other parishes within the Compasse by vertue of the said order and warrants assessed towards the paiment of the said some of 20*li*. weekly are in arreare the some of 80*li*. at least and refuse to make paiment therof accordingly ;—The severall parishes in arrear to be brought unto the two next justices that their reasons may be “shewed” forthwith why they or any of them refuse to pay their said rates and may take further order with the refusers according to the Statute.

7. Forasmuch as John Preston Esqr one of his Maties Justics of the peace for this countie was at Ivelchester Sessōns last made Treasurer of the maymed souldiers ; And forasmuch as greate Complaints haue binn made to this Court of the great neglect of Constables and Churchwardens in their duties in collectinge and payinge in maymed souldier and hospitall mony and likewise of

the refractoriness of severall persons in paying the severall rates imposed on them for maymed souldiers and hospitall mony wherby the poore are like to suffer; All justices of the peace within the county authorised to take complaints and to cause persons negligent or refractory to find good sureties to answer the same at the next general sessions.

8. Marmaduke Jennings and John Newton desired to take the same matter again into consideration touching the "maintaineinge" of a child born in the parish of "Mutchelney."

9. Wheras severall orders haue binn heretofore made concerninge the reparacon of Langford bridge, and that John Gunston (in obedience to the severall orders) hath disposed the whole charge for repairinge of the said bridge and that the inhabitants of Norton Fitzwarren being ordered to paie the moytie of the charge therof refuse to paie the same;—Referred to John Pyne, Marmaduke Jennings, and John Newton Esq<sup>rs</sup> or any two of them to examine such persons who are concerned in the orders and to punish whom they shall find refractory according to law.

10. Uppon Complaint of the paricon<sup>rs</sup> of the parishe of Luckombe that one John Tucker is there comorante in the howse of one Arthur Thorne whose daughter he lately married yet was never lawfully settled at Luckombe but ought to goe and liue at a place called Oare about fower miles from Luckombe where he was last settled; Referred to the two next justices of the peace to Luckombe to settle the said Tucker according to law.

11. Wheras there hath binn a difference betweene the pariconers of Caffcombe and Stowell concerninge the setlinge of John Dirham an impotent man and that the said Dirham remaneth in his distresse noe where settled;—Referred unto John Preston, John Newton, and John Whitby Esq<sup>rs</sup> or any two of them to settle the said Dirham according to law.

12. Wheras at the last generall Sessions of the peace helde for this Countie it was desired and ordered that John Whitby

Esqr should receave of Colonel Harbine late treasurer of the maymed souldiers of this Countie fifty pounds of the surplusage mony accruinge in this yeare and to cause forty pounds therof to bee employed in and about paling the gaol yard and other needfull reparecons of the said gaol accordinge to the direcons of the Judges at the last assizes, and wheras the said Mr. Whitby is now absent from home and out of this Countie and the said Gaol requireth a speedy reparacon in respect of severall late escapes thence therfore for prevention of future dangers in this behalfe this Court doth desire and authorize John Newton Esqr to receave the said monyes, and to cause yt forthwith to bee employed as aforesaid, and the tenn pounds residue of the said fifty to bee paid to Richard Jones Esqr now treasurer for the Eastern division of this Countie for the hospitalls to bee by him employed in and about the rebuildinge of one side of the howse of Correcccon at Shepton Mallett.

13. Petition of the inhabitants of South Petherton respecting a child, referred to the next justice to make an order.

14. Uppon readinge the peticon of sundry the inhabitants of the parishe of Whitchurch wherby it appeareth that John Ashford of Whitchurch aforesaid husband[man] beinge hired to serve the office of a tythingman for the said parish in the yeare of our Lord 1644, and that duringe the same yeare hee did by vertue of his said office receave seuerall somes of mony for which hee hath not yet accompted although often requested therunto, this Court doth hereby order the said Aishford forthwith to passe his accompt with the said inhabitants of Whitchurch of and for such monyes as hee receaved during his office or to shew sufficient Cause to the contrary to Edward Baber Esqr why he should not passe in his accompt, and unlesse the said Aishford shall accompt or shew sufficient cause to Mr. Baber, he said Mr. Baber is desired & authorized to bind the said Aishford with good suerties to answer the premisses at the next General Sessions.

15. Uppon the greate Complaint of the Countie of the great decay of the bridge called Tone bridge lying and beinge in

Taunton St. James and allsoe of the bridge called New bridge lyinge twixt two severall parishes or places called Selworthy and Luckombe wherby some persons haue lost their lifes, and the Countie sustayned much prejudice in severall other waies which bridge (as is alleadged) hath alwaies used and ought to bee repaired at the Charge of the Countie, this Court doth referr the examinacon hereof to John Pyne, John Preston, Marmaduke Jennings and John Newton Esq<sup>rs</sup> desiringe and authorisinge that in case they finde the same allegaçon true as to either or both of the said bridges then to order reparacons accordingly and the said Justices are allsoe desired and authorized to call before them Mr. Henry Tompson and all others who haue any monyes in their or any of their hands which ought to goe towards the reparaçons of the said bridges or either of the same and to cause them to make paiement therof to bee employed for the purposes aforesaid.

16. Orders for illegitimate children. [Not given.]

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THE GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD THE KING HELD AT BRIDGEWATER the fifth, sixth, and seventh days of October in the year of the reign of our Lord Charles, by the grace of God the twenty-third (1647), Before William Prynne, Esq., John Buckland, Esq., Charles Steyning, Esq., William Caple, Esq., William Stroude, Esq., Edward Popham, Esq., John Preston, Esq., Henry Henley, Esq., and John Newton, Esq., etc.

1. Uppon readinge the peticon of William Jenkins and Thomas Spreate Churchwardens of the parish of Milverton, It is ordered that John Lancaster Esq<sup>r</sup> doe attend this Court this presente Sessions to answeere to such matters as by the said peticoners and parishe are objected against him.

2. Upon readinge the opinion of Judge Godbolt<sup>1</sup> one of his Maties Justices of Assize of this Western Circuitte touchinge a

<sup>1</sup> John Godbolt, promoted to bench of C.P. 30 Apr. 1647. *D.N.B.* xxii, 23.

child of Mary Jay of which child one William Laurence hath beene chardged to bee the reputed father, and ordered by the twoe next Justices of the peace to contribute towards the maintenance of the said Child, and the husband of the said Mary hath been proved to bee liveinge for diverse yeares together att the Barbadoes, and there to have continued untill since the birth of the said child and not appearinge to have retourned into England duringe the same tyme where the said Mary hath allwaies lived, the said Judge his opinion beinge that the said child was a bastard and that the order to chardge the said Laurence the reputed father was lawfull, this Court doth ratify and confirme the said order of the said twoe Justics to all intents and purposes and order observaunce thereof.

3. Upon readinge the peticon of Alice Yetton whereby shee craveth releife from the parishe of Biddisham in respect of her ympotency in body; Referred to William Caple, Thomas Hodges, Edward Baber, and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs.</sup>, or any two of them, to make a settlement therein, otherwise to certify the true state thereof at the next General Sessions.

4. Upon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Bromefeild thereby shewing that contrary to all right and equity the parishioners of Enmore have of late required the full tithinge rate of certen lands and tenements lyinge in Bromefeild to bee paid unto them, by meanes whereof the money payeable and to be collected by the Tythinge Rate in Bromefeild afore-said for the King's service is neglected; doth order the said inhabitants of both parishes to attend Marmaduke Jennings, John Newton, Charles Steynings, and George Lutterell, Esq<sup>rs.</sup>, or any two of them, who are desired to make a final conclusion between them, if possible, otherwise to certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions.

5. Upon readinge of the peticon of George Towills of Bromefeild, gent., touching the Tythingmanshipp of Heathcombe, It is ordered that Henry Castle the present Tythingman there doe stand and remayne Tythingman untill some other person who ought of right to doe and performe the said office bee



presented and sworne Tithingman for the said Tithinge of Heathcombe, in regard it was offered to bee proved here that the owners of the said Mr. Towill his messuage and land for which it was endeavoured to make him serve the said office were freed and exempted from servinge the office aforesaid.

6. Upon readinge of the peticon of the inhabitants of the parishe of Ubley thereby sheweinge that one Mary Marten a poore impotent Ideott about the age of Twenty and fower yeares was borne and bredd att Yarlington, and that the parishoners of Yarlington had sent her to Ubley to bee kept without warrant; And upon readinge of twoe severall Orders one made att Welles Sessions and thother att Ivelchester Sessions last, and of another order made att Taunton Assizes last touchinge the settlemt of the said Mary by which order of Assizes it doth not appeare that the said orders of Sessions had beene read att the Assizes, It is directed and ordered that the parishoners of Ubley doe att Wells Sessions next preferr an Indictment against such person at Yarlington as brought the said Mary Martin to Ubley without warrant and that such person forthwith appeare and pleade to yssue and the same yssue to bee then tried, for which triall both parties att [their peril] are to come prepared; provided that the said parishe of Ubley doe by the space of sixe weekes att the least before the same Sessions give notice to the said parishe of Yarlington of this order and of the name of such person as they intend to indict. And it is further ordered that in the meane tyme untill such tryall the said Mary is to remayne at Ubley as aforesaid and there to bee provided for, and the parishoners of Yarlington are to contribute and pay 18*d*. weekly upon demand to the parish of Ubley beinge thone half of the chardges of keepinge the said Mary from the tyme of her last bringinge to Ubley. And in case they refuse or neglect the said payment by the space of one weeke att any tyme the constables and other officers of Ubley are hereby authorized to carry the said Mary to Yarlington there to remayne untill the said tryall bee determined, and in case the said parishe of Yarlington refuse to receive her, this Court doth order that they bee proceeded against accordinge to lawe as disturbers of the settlemt of the Poore.

7. Upon complaint made unto this Court by Joseph Wickham of Stogursey yeoman that Mary Bawdrripp the wife of Thomas Bawdrripp of Stogursey husbandman was indicted att Taunton Assizes was twelve moneth for felony being then att lardge on which Indictment shee hath nott yett appeared and now the said Joseph Wickham hath discovered her to bee resident att Stogursey aforesaid, theis are therefore to will and require yo<sup>u</sup> and every of yo<sup>u</sup> forthwith to apprehend and take the body of the said Mary, and her to bringe before some or one of his Maties Justices of the Peace of this County to find good sureties to appeare att the next generall Gaole Delivery to bee held for this County there to answere to the said Indictment, whereof faile yo<sup>u</sup> nott att your pill.

To the Constables of the hundred of Cannington and the Constables and Tythingmen of the Burrough of Stogursey and every or any of them.

8. Whereas there are greate differences betweene Margaret Hodgess widow of Middle Chinnock and Gyles Hodges and Henry Hodges her sonnes theire father dyinge intestate, and the said Margarett havinge taken Administracon, and thereby possessed herselfe of all the goods Chattles and Estate of the intestate, and not affordinge her said sonnes Gyles and Henry any manner of releife out of the same which hath occasioned many differences betweene them; Henry Henly, John Preston, and Henry Bonners, Esq<sup>rs</sup>., or any two of them to examine all the differences and mediate an end between them if they cane, and to bind such parties as are refractory to the next Sessions and in the meantime to be of the good behaviour if they shall see cause for the same.

9. Whereas complaint is made to this Court by John Parsons and Thomas Sheppard Churchwardens of the parishe of Othery that they haveinge disbursed and paid severall somes of money required of them as to the Treasurers of the meymhed souldiers and hopittalls, Common fynes and reparacons about the church and other usuall disbursements for the said parishe and incident to theire said office, And there beinge rates made within the said parishe for the same, many of the said parishe

refuse to pay their proporconable rates towards the same; John Newton and Marmaduke Jennings Esq<sup>res</sup>. will bee pleased to call all such persons of the said parishe as refuse to pay their rates before them, and bind them to the next Sessions there to answer their contempts unless they shall find good cause to the contrary.

10. Upon readinge the several peticons of Katherine Butler of Watchett in the parishe of St. Decamonds to the Judges of Assize (viz.) Judge Godbold and Judge Wilde<sup>1</sup> severally, and the References of the said Judges thereon touchinge the settlinge of the said Katherine att Watchett accordinge to her desire by the said peticons; It is ordered that shee remayne settled att Watchett untill further order made by this Court.

11. Complaint made by the parishioners of Greinton that an order for 12*d.* per week towards the relief of a base child was too little, referred back to the justices who had made the order for enlargement if the justices see cause.

12. The difference twixt the inhabitants of the parishes of Crocombe and Stogumber touching the settling of one William Ayshford to be drawn up and reduced to a case and presented to the justices of assize for their determination.

13. Upon the complaint of James Dennis gent. keeper of the Common Goale att Ivelchester, of John Poyton gent. Keeper of the howse of Correcon at Shepton Mallett, and of the Keeper of the howse of Correcon at Taunton, of greate arreres due to them generally of their severall stipends in respect to their offices; Justices of the peace in their several divisions to use their best endeavours in enforcing the speedy collecting of the hospital, maymed soldiers, and other poors money, any officers or others refractory or remiss to be dealt with according to the Statute 43<sup>o</sup> Eliz., and an order of this Court made at Taunton Sessions last.

<sup>1</sup> John Wilde, appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer 12 Oct., 1646. *D.N.B.*, lxi, 227.

14. Peticon of George Deane of Olde Towne in the parishe of Chard thereby sheweinge that the churchwardens and the overseers of the poore of the said parishe of Chard did agree with the said Deane to pay a certain some of money weekeley for the keepinge of a base child some of which moneyes the said churchwardens and overseers have paid butt refuse to pay the arrears ; Chnrchwardens and overseers ordered forthwith to pay unto the said Deane all such arrears as shall appear to be due unto him or otherwise to show sufficient cause to the contrary before John Preston and Henry Henley Esqrs.

15. Order made touching the maintenance of four children which had been in the keeping of Robert Prankerd of Milbron port, two of which were ordered to be kept by their grandmother Margaret Wilkins of Tintenhull who having been made acquainted with the said order, said shee did not care a straw for the same and refused to yeild any obedience thereunto.

[See Ivelchester Sessions—order 25.]

16. John Younge the younger, the reputed father of a child against whom an order for maintenance had been made, upon the petition of the inhabitants of Publowe, to be carried to the Common Gaol, until he find sureties or performed the order, for endeavouring to retard the performance of the said order.

17. That all Bridges within this County that are defective shall with all convenient speed bee viewed by the Justices of the peace within there severall precincts, and inquiry made who ought to repayre the same, and to certify it att the next Sessions of the peace to be holden for this Country ; and in the meane tyme the said Justices to take care that they be presently made passable for all convenient drifts, passages, and carriages till such tyme as they cann bee throughly repayred by those that ought or are bound to do it by lawe, And that copies of this order bee delivered to the high Constables of every hundred whoe are hereby required to present the same defects to the respective Justices. [S.R., lxxx, 36; presentment of the Grand Jury.]



18. Whereas diverse complaints have beene presented vnto this Court of the greate abuses of maulters, Alehowse keepers, Inne-houlders, Bakers, Ingrossers, Badgers, and others, to the Inhaunceinge of the prizes of Corne and all sortes of victualls in this tyme of dearth and scarcity, and that certen misdemeanors have beene of late committed by some disorderly persons in seizinge of Corne and other provisions goeing to the marketts and fayres tendinge much to the breach of the peace, and to the great hinderaunce of the due furnisheinge of the marketts; It is ordered by this Court as followeth,

1. That the order made att Wells Sessions last for restraynt of supplyinge unlicensed Alehowses by maulters bee revised and putt in due execucon.

2. That William Ivyleafe, Henry Marchant and Thomas Winiper of Froome who have offended in furnishinge unlicenced Alesellers with mault, bee hereby suppressed from convertinge barly into mault for the space of three years next ensueinge.

3. That the Justices of the peace of this County within there respective divisions bee desired to take an exact accompt within one moneth after this Sessions of all the maulters within there precincts, and such as they shall find to bee of sufficient ability to support themselves without the trade of maultinge forthwith to suppress for one whole yeare next ensueinge and such others as shalbee thought fitt to bee continued to lymitt and restrayne to such proporcons of mault as they shall iudge convenient, noe one maulter exceedinge the weeklye proporcon of fowre quarters under payne of suppression.

4. That noe maulter buy any Barly but in open markett and such as hath continued in open markett by the space of one hower and noe other or greater proporcon weeklye then such maulter is allowed to wett under the like payne of suppression.

5. That noe badger nor baker buy any Corne or grayne butt in open markett, And that after the same hath continued there by the space of one hower att the least.

6. That all superfluous Alehowses bee forthwith suppressed and all innehoulders and licensed Alehowses keepers bee strictly required to sell after the proporcons of a full Alequart of the best beere or Ale for a penny, and two quarts of the small for one penny accordinge to the Statute.



7. That yf any maulter, Innehoulder, Alehowse keeper, Badger, or Baker offend in the premisses or yf any person or persons shall in an unlawfull manner interrupt or disturbe any person within this County in or goeing to or retourneinge from any marktett or faire with Corne or other victuall that then complaint bee made to the next Justice of the peace to thend such offender may bee severely punished accordinge to lawe.

8. That all Mayors and Justices of the Peace within the corporations of this County bee desired to take especiall care for the due lymittacon and restraynt of all maulters, Alehowse keepers, Badgers, and bakers within theire severall corporacons.

9. That the Sherriffe bee desired to publishe cotypes of these orders in all marktett Towns in this County.

19. Upon readinge the present<sup>mt</sup> of the hundred of Tintenhull whereby they presented Mr. Bernard Gould to bee Constable for the present yeare to come and upon hearing the said Mr. Gould who pleaded exempcon sometimes by prescripion, att other tymes by Charter of priviledge which hee had not to produce, This Court to thend the service may not be neglected doth order that the said Mr. Gould bee constable for this present yeare to come, and hee is sworne accordingly And withall this Court doth declare that is not their meaninge hereby to prejudice the said Mr. Gould or any other who shall come to this estate in tyme to come, But that hee and they are to bee exempted from the said Office in case they make good an exempcon either by prescripion or priviledge.

20. Whereas there was an order made by the Committee of this County that the poore people of Taunton St. James now in Hestercombe Howse should speedily remove into theire parishes in which they formerly dwelt, upon readinge of which order the Court att Wells conceived the matter to bee soe reasonable as that it did in as much as in it lyed order that the said order of the Committee bee in all points thereof observed and performed by the person concerned in the premisses, upon readinge of which said order and upon informacon given that the same hath not bene obeyed This Court doth hereby order that the poore people aforesaid shall remove within a fortnight, or els it is

ordered by this said Court that the Constables of that hundred shall remove them, and that the arreres towards the releife of the said poore shalbe forthwith dischargd and paid.

21. John Dirricke of Whitechurch who was bound by recognizance for the appearance of one Richard Ayshforth of Whitechurch aforesaid at Taunton Sessions "where the said Ayshford did appeare, was in the gaolers custody who casually suffered the said Ayshford to escape"; recognizance discharged by the Court and the Clerk of the Peace to enter an *exoneratur* on the same accordingly.

Ordines pro spuris.

- (1) As to a child born at Crewkerne—18<sup>th</sup> August 1647.
- (2) As to a child born at Muchelney, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1647.

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GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD THE KING held at Wells in the County aforesaid the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth days of January in the year of the Reign of our Lord Charles, by the grace of God King of England, etc., defender of the faith the twenty-third (1647-8). Before John Buckland, Esq., William Stroude, Esq., Richard Jones, Esq., Marmaduke Jennings, Esq., Edward Baber, Esq., William Caple, Esq., John Carew, Esq., John Hipplesley, Esq., and Thomas Hodges, Esq.

1. Upon the peticon of the widow Hickman the Relict of William Hickman late of Wellington Mercer who was slayn in the Parliament service, and vpon consideracon had of twoo certificates by her preduced in relacon to her said husband's sufferadges, and of the ordinaunce of Parliament in this behalf; It is ordered that the said widow Hickman bee allowed the some of twenty shillings towards her present releife, and to defray her Chardges homewards, to bee paid by the Treasurer for maymed souldiers of this County and allowed on his Accompt.

2. Upon readinge the peticon of Alice Yetton whereby she craveth releife from the parishe of Biddisham in respecte of her ympotency in body.

Referred to William Caple, Thomas Hodges, Edward Baber, and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup>. or any one of them to make a settlement if he or they can, otherwise to certify the true state of the same at the next General Sessions.

3. Upon readinge the peticon of the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of the parishe of Crewkerne, whereby they desire this Court to prevent a burthen like to come on their parishe by the Children of one William Combe, And of another peticon of severall inhabitants of the Towne and parishe of Crewkerne whereby they desire to have the severall tithings of Seaborow and Eastham adioyninge to Crewkerne to contribute towards the releife of Crewkerne Poore, they beinge soe supernumerous as that the parishe of Crewkerne are not able to maynteyne them; the matter of both petitions referred to Henry Henley and Henry Bonner Esq<sup>rs</sup>. to hear and determine the same if they can, otherwise to certify unto this court the true state of the same several businesses.

4. Upon readinge the peticon of the inhabitants of the Hundred of Martock shewing the greate decay of Loadebridge and Gabridge bowe betweene Kingsbury and Martock and how preiudiciall and dangerous it is for People to passe there; Referred to William Stroude, Henry Henley, John Newton, Marmaduke Jennings, Henry Bonner Esq<sup>rs</sup>. or any four of them to make enquiry by whome the same bridges ought to bee repayred and to take such care for the speedy repayringe of the said bridges att the chardge of the same persons or of the County as the Statute in such cases doth direct.

5. Upon readinge of an assessment and order made by John Hipplesley and John Carew twoe of his Maties Justices of the Peace, whereby severall parishes and places are assessed and ordered to pay severall somes of money towards the releife of certen infected people of Rode, This Court doth ratify and confirme the said Assessment and order *hac vice tantum* a due observaunce thereof accordingly.

6. Upon hearinge of the Overseers of the Poore of Taunton St. James touchinge theire Accompts and of severall obiecons made by the said parish against the same Accompts; Referred for examination to Henry Henley, John Newton, Marma duke Jennings and Henry Bonner Esq<sup>rs</sup>., or any two of them, to determine the same accompts if they can, otherwise to certify unto this Court how they find the same at the next General Sessions.

7. Upon readinge of the Peticon of Johane Holland of Weston thereby shewing that shee beinge heretofore bound an apprentice to one Edward Hare deceased for the terme of seaven yeares upon promise to bee kept att schoole to learne to reade and to sowe with whome the said Edward Hare had the some of Eight pounds in money, and that shee the said Joane had served out parte of the tyme of the said apprenticeship with the said Edward Hare, and the residue thereof with Mary Hare wife and executrix of the said Edward Hare, but had not duringe the tyme of her service any Clothes or other satisfacon for the said Eight pounds, but was kept in a miserable and sadd condicon contrary to the said Edward Hare his promise; Referred to the two next justices adjoining who are desired to make such order therein as shalbee agreeable to justice.

8. Upon readinge of the peticon of the inhabitants of the parishe of East Coker thereby sheweinge that whereas one Mary Fisher beinge the wife of Thomas Fisher who now liveth in London, and shee beinge lately delivered of a child in the said parish of East Coker upon which they desire that shee with her child may bee removed from East Coker, and sent either to her husband or Avington<sup>1</sup> the place of her birth; Referred to the two next justices to make a settlement as shall be agreeable to law.

9. It is ordered by the Court that the undersheriffe of this County doe forthwith cause to bee apprehended and brought unto the Court the bodies of the severall bayliffs hereundernamed to answere for neglectinge their duty in not attendinge the

<sup>1</sup> Alvington in Brympton.

Court, Richard Higgins bayliff of the Hundred of Portbury, Willm Parsons bayliffe of the Hundred of Kaynsham, Willm Dirricke bayliffe of the Hundred of Wells forum, Edward Sherborne bayliffe of the Hundred of Chew, John Tucker bayliffe of the Hundred of Froome, William Collins bayliffe of the Hundred of Bath forum, Edward Wookam bayliff of the Hundred of Bempstone.

10. It beinge made appeared [*sic*] unto this Court by John Broadway of Aller in the Hundred of Somerton that hee and Sherrington ffarewell gent were att the last Law day Court held for the said Hundred presented to serve the office of Constables of that hundred for this yeare whereupon the said Broadway was att the said lawday sworne, and hath since executed the said office but the said Mr. ffarewell by reason of his beinge in the Parliaments service hath refused the same office, whereby the burthen of that said office lyeth wholly upon the said Broadway.

This Court doth desire Marmaduke Jennings and John Newton Esqrs., to call before them Edward Cooke of Somerton Early Henry Clothier of East Ledford and John Hopkins of Yeovilton and swere one of them to serve the said office of Constableness of the said Hundred of Somerton for this year. In case anyone chosen refusing to act to find good sureties to answer his contempt at the next General Sessions.

11. Upon complaint made unto this Court by and on the behalfe of Thomas Chambers, Randall Carde, Dorothy Palmer, Stephen Hodges and Willm Hurman persons ymployed by Henry Denmeade servant to Mr. Thomas Cooke Clothier for the spinning of certen wool and convertinge it into yarne and twistinge thereof for the benefitt of the said Mr. Cooke that theire wages for the same spinninge and twistinge had beene deteyned from them by the said Mr. Cooke, and upon hearinge the said Mr. Cooke and his defence to the said Complaint; It is ordered that the said Mr. Cooke doe forthwith pay to the said Thomas Chambers the some of ffowerteene shillings, to the said Randall Carde the some of nyne shillings and fower pence, to the said Dorothy Palmer the some of eighteene shillings and



one penny, to the said Stephen Hodges the some of nyne shillings and fower pence, and to the said William Hurman the some of nyne shillings, which shalbee in full satisfacon of theire said wages, upon payne of beinge punished as a withhoulder and deteyner of servants wages.

12. Upon readinge of an order of Bridgewater Sessions last recitinge a petition of the Inhabitants of Ubley settinge forth thereby that one Mary Martyn a poore ympotent Ideott of the age of Twenty and fower years was borne and bredd att Yarlington, and that the parishoners of Yarlington had sent her to Ubley to bee kept without warrant and recitinge severall other orders of the Assizes and Sessions, It was ordered that the parishioners of Ubley should att then next Sessions preferr an Indictment against such person of Yarlington as brought the said Mary Martyn to Ubley without warrant and that such person should forth<sup>with</sup> appeare and pleade to yssue and the same yssue to bee then tried. At which tryall both parties att perill were to come prepared. Provided that Ubley should by the space of six weekes att least before the same Sessions give notice to the parishe of Yarlington of the same order, and of the name of such person as they intended to Indict; and untill such tryall the said Mary to remayne att Ubley to bee provided for, and the parishoners of Yarlington were to contribute and pay eightene pence weekly on demaunde to the parishe of Ubley and in case they refused or neglected by the space of one weeke att any one tyme the Constables and other officers of Ubley were thereby authorized to carry the said Mary to Yarlington to remayne there untill the said tryall should bee determined. Now upon readinge of the Peticon of the Inhabitants of Yarlington, and upon hearinge what could bee alleadged both on the behalfe of Yarlington and Ubley, it appeareth unto this Court that the parishoners of Yarlington had refused to contribute eighteen pence weekly to the said parishe of Ubley accordinge to the said Order of Bridgewater Sessions although they had notice of that parte of the said order and that thereupon the Constables of Ubley had carried the said Mary to Yarlington. And that the parishoners of Ubley had accordinge to the said order preferred an Indictment against one Edward Haies for the bringinge of

the said Mary to Ubley without warrant; unto which Indictment the said Haies had pleaded but the parishoners of Yarlington were not prepared for the said triall in regard they had not notice of that parte of the said order relatinge to the said tryall but are contented to try the same at Ivelchester Sessions. It is now ordered by this Court that the said Mary shall remayne att Yarlington aforesaid untill this Court shall otherwise order, and in regard it is conceived by this Court that the parishe of Yarlington are not att present in a capacity to relieve there owne poore without assistaunce, this Court doth by vertue of the Statute of 43<sup>o</sup> Eliz. tax and asseesse the parishoners of the said parishe of Ubley to pay vjs. per moneth to the said parishoners of Yarlington, towards the maintenance of the said Mary untill this Court shall take further order touchinge the settlement of the said Mary, the said vjs. per moneth by consent of the said parishes to bee paid to Mr. William West of Wells to the use of the said parishe of Yarlington, and the first moneth to beginn from this tyme and soe forewards; And the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of Ubley shall proporcon the said tax to bee paid and levy the same accordinge to the said Statute as they will answeere the contrary att their perill.

13. Order that Robert Morris of Overstowey, husbandman, a very poor man having a wife and children, and no place of habitacon "soe that hee is like to fall into greate misery for want thereof" may erect and build him a cottage on some part of the "wast" of the manor of Overstowey, provided that the said Morris shall procure the leave and approbation of the Lord of the said Manor of Overstowey and to certify the same at the next Sessions of the peace.

14. Upon readinge an order made at Wells Sessions XV<sup>o</sup> Car. whereby it appeareth that much dispute hath beene heretofore had betweene the Easterne and Western parts of the Hundred of Catsaishe concerninge the unequallity of the Rates of those divisions, the tithings of Maperton and Queene Camell beinge ordered to pay with the westerne parte of the said hundred as by the said order appeareth; the Easterne parte of

the ſame hundred doe now offer to this Court that they were not duly heard therein but that the ſaid order was ſurreptitiouſly taken, and therefore noe due obedience had beene hitherto yeilded thereunto as was alleadged. Referred for a full examination of the ſaid buſineſſe to William Stroude John Buckland and John Hippeſley Eſq<sup>rs</sup>, or any two of them “who are deſired to meete att the Swann in Shepton Mallett on Tueſday the 25<sup>th</sup> day of this inſtant moneth of January (where both parties are to attend with their wiſſeſſes and evidence), to take the ſame into examinacon and to certify the true ſtate thereof att the next generall Sessions; And what the ſaid Juſtices ſhall certify both the ſaid parties have conſented ſhalbee then ratified and confirmed by this Court to ſtand as a Rule for the tyme then to come.

15. Upon complaint made unto this Court by and on the behalfe of the Tithinge of Halton that they are, and have beene overated for a long tyme for and by reaſon of an order of Sessions ſurreptitiouſly obteyned againſt them by the Tithinge of Blackford for the payment of double as much as Blackford whereas Halton ought to pay but equall with Blackford. Examination referred to the ſame juſtices upon ſimilar terms to thoſe contained in the preceding order.

16. Forasmuch as it was att Bridgewater Sessions laſt ordered that the Juſtices of the peace of this County within their reſpective diſviſions ſhould take an exact accompt of all the maulſters within their precincts, and to ſuppreſſe ſuch of them for one yeare as they ſhould find to bee of ſufficient ability to ſupport themſelves, and ſuch others as ſhould bee thought to bee continued to lymitt and reſtrayne; And forasmuch as ſince the ſame Sessions William Stroude and John Buckeland Eſq<sup>rs</sup>, have in purſuance of the ſaid order ſuppreſſed ſeverall perſons for mawltinge by the ſpace of one yeare, and lymitted and reſtrayned other perſon and perſons makinge mault to certain lymittacons; which pceedings of theirs herein they the ſaid Mr. Stroude and Mr. Buckland have certified this Court to haue the ſame ſuppreſſions and reſtraints compleated and eſtabliſhed. This Court doth hereby declare it meete that the ſaid ſuppreſſions and reſtraints bee and ſtand in force; and doth alſoe ratify and

establish the said suppressions and restraints to all intents and purposes.

17. For that it is convenient that the Keeper of the Gaole of this County for the tyme being bee likewise Keeper of the House of Correccion in regard of the proximity of the said howses this Court doth make and ordeyne Richard Browne gent. the present Keeper of the said Gaole Keeper of the howse of Correccion.

18. The matter of the business as to the reputed father of a child at Clevedon referred for examination, &c., to Richard Cole, Esq<sup>r</sup>.

19. Upon the instance of Richard Cole Esq<sup>r</sup> late Sherriffe of this County this Court dothe nominate and appoint John Buckland, Thomas Hodges, Edward Baber and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> fower of his Majesty's Justices of the peace of this County or any twoe of them one of the twoe being of the quorum to view and oversee the Estreates of the County Court for his yeare according to the Statute in that behalfe.

20. Ordered and declared that the said former order and all other orders of Sessions touching the inequallity of rates in the eastern and western parts of the hundred of Catsaishe, with the consent of both parties, shall be from henceforth null and void; and it is further ordered by consent of the said parties that the rate and proportion before mentioned shall stand as a rule until the next General Sessions.

21. Forasmuch as it appeareth that the buyinge upp of barley by maulsters in the marketts of this County in theis tymes of scarcity doth daily enhaunce the price thereof and may probably bringe the price of barley to bee soe high that the poore may not bee able to attayne thereunto and soe must consequently perish or bee reduced to greate want, this Court to prevent theis inconveniences and all other of this nature doth thinke fitt that accordinge to former order noe person or persons in this County other then such as haue barley groweing of their owne Tithe

Corne, or Rent Corne and other such as are allready licensed doe from hencefourth converte barly into Mault unless for their owne use without license first obteyned And doe hereby further order, that noe maulster licensed or to bee licensed doe from hencefourth buy any barly to converte into Mault in any of markett townes of this County And in case it shall hereafter bee made appeare by goode prooffe before any one of his Majesty's Justices of the peace of this County that any maulster licensed or to bee licensed shall have bought barly contrary to this order such maulster is hereby declared and adjudged to bee from thencefourth actually suppressed this order to continue in force till the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County.

22. Upon request made unto this Court by George Millard and John Winsor Constables of the Hundred of Whitstone to bee discharged of their said office of Constableness havinge served over and above their yeare and haveing presented Mr. Isaack Cooke (now in Court) and Mr. Aaron Micoe to bee constables of the said hundred for this ensueinge yeare which said Mr. Cooke beinge by this Court required to take his oath of Constable did submitt to bee sworne, and is sworne accordingly, this Court now orders that the said Aaron Micoe forthwith to repaire to the next Justice of the Peace there to bee sworne likewise to serve the said office of Constableness within the said hundred for the yeare next ensueinge upon payne of beinge dealt withall as a contempner of the lawe in this behalfe.

Ordines pro spuriis.

As to a child born in the parish of Kelston, dated 22nd of February, 1647.

As to a child born in the parish of Seavington, dated the 29th of June, 1647.

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GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD THE KING HELD AT IVELCHESTER in the County aforesaid the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth days of April in the year of the reign of Our Lord the King, Charles, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, etc., King, the twenty-fourth (1648). Before John Buckland, William Stroude, Henry Bonner, John Pyne, Richard Jones, John Newton, and Marmaduke Jennings, esquires.

1. Att this Sessions John Cary Esq<sup>r</sup> is chosen Treasurer of the Hospitalls for the Easterne division, Marmaduke Jennings Esq<sup>r</sup>. is chosen Treasurer of the Hospitalls for the Western division. And John Buckland Esq<sup>r</sup>. William Stroude Esq<sup>r</sup>. and the said John Cary or any twoe of them are intreated to take Accompt of Richard Jones Esq<sup>r</sup>. the late Treasurer for the Hospitalls of the Easterne division ; and John Pyne Esq<sup>r</sup>. Henry Bonner Esq<sup>r</sup>. and the said Marmaduke Jennings or any twoe of them are intreated to take the accompts of Charles Staynings and John Newton Esq<sup>rs</sup> the late Treasurers of the Hospitalls for the Western division of this County.

2. Att this Sessions Henry Bonner Esq<sup>r</sup>. is chosen Treasurer for the maymed souldiers and John Hippesley Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Richard Jones Esq<sup>r</sup>. and the said Henry Bonner are intreated to take the accompt of John Preston Esq<sup>r</sup>. the late Treasurer.

3. Forasmuch as the examinacon of a difference touchinge rates betweene Halton and Blackford, as the Tithinge of Blackford, was at Wells Sessions last referred to the examinacon of William Stroud, John Buckland and John Hippesley Esq<sup>ts</sup>, who by the consent of the said parties ordered a view of every particular estate within the said places to bee made and brought unto them or any twoe of them on or before the last day of February now last past by George Croydon of Combe, John Wadham of Horsington, John Payne of Rimpton, Walter Baker of North Cadbury and William Viagars of Yarlinton or any three of them which said persons have not as yett donn any thinge touchinge the premisses ; this Court dothe therefore

att the iſtaunce of Halton in the preſence of Mr. Trevillian of counſell with Blackford lymitt a further tyme for the ſaid viewers ſoe choſen or any three of them to purſue the order of the ſaid Juſtices, viz. the laſt day of May next, and in the meane tyme the ſaid Tithings to pay as before.

4. It is att this Sessions ordered that Henry Bonner Eſqr the new Treasuſer for the maymed ſouldiers or his Deputy forthwith receave ſuch moneyes as the Conſtables have brought or ſhall bringe att this or anie other Sessions, and that the ſaid Treasuſer or his Deputy pay unto ſuch maymed ſouldiers as have formerly received Releife quarterly the quarters pay accordinge to the proportions formerly allowed unto them.

5. Upon readinge of an order of the Aſſizes of the twenty-ſeaventh of March laſt concenterge the examininge by this Court touchinge the takinge away of the Warrants of certain Juſtices of Peace of this County from certain Conſtables and other officers which hindered the execution thereof as was alleaged; this Court havinge taken the ſame buſines into examination, and heard all the ſaid Conſtables except ſuch of them whoſe names are Windſor and Cooper, doth declare that for ought it now appeareth the ſaid Complaint mentioned in the ſaid order is frivolous and vaine, and that noe abuſe now appeareth to haue beene offered in takeinge away of ſuch warrant or warrants, as by the ſaid recited order is expreſſed, nevertheles for that it is alleaged by Edward Curle who proſecuteth the ſame matter that the abſence of the ſaid Windſor and Cooper is the cauſe why a true diſcovery cannott bee made, doth thinke fitt to leave the ſaid Edward Curle att liberty to bringe the ſame perſons to the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for the County att which tyme yf it be deſired this Court will reſume the hearinge of the ſame matter. In the meane tyme the ſaid Edward Curle may take warrants from the Clerke of the Peace of this County for the Sumoninge of the ſame perſons to appeare att the ſaid next Sessions yf hee be ſoe minded.

6. Upon readinge the Petition of Frauncis Britten now wife of John Britten of Leigh upon Mendipp, and on examinations

now taken in open Court. It appeareth that the said John Britten has most barbarously and in unhumanlike manner abused his said wife and sixe small children which shee had by her former husband John Downe deceased, and will not afford either her or them any releife or mayntennce out of the estate which hee hath by her beinge worth 40 *li. per ann.* besides a personall estate of the vallew of 150 *li.* or thereabouts ;—

This Court doth hereupon desire that John Hippesley and John Carew Esq<sup>rs</sup> wilbee pleased to call the said Britten and his wife before them and examine the difference and mediate a peace betweene them yf they may, or otherwise to make such order therein as shalbee agreeable to iustice for her and their releife.

7. Whereas a tryall hath beene at this Sessions by the consent both of Ubley and Yarlinton of the yssue ioyned upon the indictment against Edward Haies for bringing of Mary Martyn from Yarlinton to Ubley without warrant, and the said Haies found guilty this Court doth therefore order and adiudge the said Mary to bee settled att Yarlinton aforesaid. But forasmuch as upon the examinacion of the witnesses att the said tryall the said parishe of Yarlinton appeareth to bee very poore, and the said Mary is like to bee overburthensome unto them ; this Court by vertue of the Statutes in this behalfe doth tax the parishoners of the said parishe of Ubley to contribute to the said parishe of Yarlinton towards the releife of the said Mary 1 *s.* per weeke to bee paid monethly the place of payment by consent of both parties beinge the howse of Mr. William West att Wells in this County, and doth order the same to bee paid accordingly, And in case of fayler the parties faylinge are to incur the penalty of the said Statute, and the Justices of the Peace within that division are desired to see the said Statute putt in execution, and alsoe yf they find any willfully to contemne the said order to bind such contemnors to appeare att the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for the County to answeere for soe doeing.

8. Upon readinge of an order of settlem<sup>t</sup> made by Mr Lutterell and Mr Staynings twoe of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of this County whereby one Thomasine Torr is

settled att Chipstable with her mother where shee hath formerly remayned, the said order of settlement is hereby confirmed untill the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County, and from thenceforward unles good cause shalbee then shewed to the contrary.

9. Upon hearinge of the difference betweene Nettlecombe and the Towne of Wiveliscombe touching a fyve miles rate made for the releife of the infected people of Wiveliscombe, the sole point in difference beinge now whether Nettlecombe bee within fyve miles of Wiveliscombe which point beinge now cleared by witnesses the rates made in this behalfe are by this Court ratifyed and confirmed, and obedience thereunto is hereby required by Nettlecombe.

10. Upon Complaint made unto this Court by one Mr Thomas Skelton a Sub Commissioner of Excise of this County that William Clarke, John Bartlett, Willm Peny, and John Diggs doe brew, tipples, and retayle in the Towne of Somerton and although they have beene in that respect severall tymes summoned to pay the duty of Excise, have fayled either to appeare or pay the said duty. Referred to the next Justice of the Peace to Somerton and in case he find cause to bind the parties to appear at the next General Sessions.

11. Touchinge the difference betweene North Petherton and Aish Priors about a base child, forasmuch as the twoe next Justices have not made any order herein; Referred anew to three justices or any two of them to do therein as by the said last order is directed.

12. Forasmuch as the Justices of the Peace to whome the difference twixt the parishes of Enmore and Bromefield hath beene referred touching rates, have informed this Court that they cannott discend to a decision of the matter unles they had power to examyne witnesses on oath, this Court therefore and to thend that a true discovery may bee made how the rates of those places have formerly gone; Did now direct an Indictment should bee by the consent of the Agents of both parishes preferred against

such person as hath of late distreyned upon Bromefield for moneyes rated on that parishe which person should appeare gratis att Taunton Sessions, Att which tryall both parishes were to come fully prepared with their witnesses; And for that Mr. Browne one of the Agents for Enmore now informed this Court that the Agents for Bromefield had refused to pursue the said directions this Court doth therefore order the present rates on both the said parishes to stand as a Rule for the tyme to come, unles the Agents for the said parishoners of Bromefield havinge six weekes notice att the least of this order shall soe pursue the directions of this Court on their part that a tryall may bee had att Taunton Sessions next as before is directed.

13. Upon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of the Easterne division of the hundred of Portbury reciteinge a rate or proportion formerly made and settled about three and twenty yeares now last past by the then two next justices which proportion the Inhabitants of Wraxall within the said hundred have of late opposed and disobeyed; The matter of this petition referred unto John Buckland, Richard Jones and Edward Baber, Esqrs. or any two of them, to examine the said proportion or rate, and to certify the true state thereof at the next General Sessions.

Ordines pro spuriis.

Twenty-seventh day of January, 1647.—For the relief of the town of Brewton in keeping and maintaining of ffrauncis a base child.

8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1647.—For the maintenance of a child chargeable to the parish of West Cranmore.

14. This Court desired the grand jury to present their opinions what wages they thought fitt to bee sett and assessed for labourers for this yeare, respect being hadd to the present tymes who made a presentment in these words, viz. :—



## The Presentment of the grand Enquest—

		<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Manservants by the yeare	... .	04	00	00
Maidservants by the yeare	... ..	02	00	00

## Hay Harvest.

To a mower of grasse to taske per diem		01	04
To a mower of grasse att meate & drinke		00	08
To a man for makinge hay findinge himselfe ... ..		01	00
To a woman findinge herselfe ... ..		00	08
To a man havinge meate and drinke ...		00	06
To a woman havinge meate & drinke ...		00	04

## Corne Harvest.

To a man findinge himselfe per diem ...		01	02
To a woman att meate & drinke ...		00	06
To a man att meate & drinke ... ..		00	08
To a woman findinge herselfe ... ..		01	00

George Harvey, George Smyth, Barnard Gould, John Martyn, Thomas Walden, Will. Hodges, John Gould, John Tabott, Rich. Rawe, Tho. Churchey, Thos. Mobes, John Hodges, John Fawkner, John Pitt, Arthur Dawe, Will. Gooden, Will. Jeanes.

It is att this Sessions ordered that the rates for wages above-mentioned bee in force in this County untill further order, the said Rates for such as find themselves are raised in regard of the greate price of all sortes of provision att this present.

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD THE KING HELD AT TAUNTON, in the County aforesaid, the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth days of July in the year of our Lord the King, Charles, by the grace of God of England ffraunce and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., the twenty-fourth (1648), before John Buckland, John Pyne, George Lutterell, Henry Henley, Charles Staynings, Henry Bonner, Marmaduke Jennings and John Newton, Esquires.

1. Upon readinge of an order of Ivelchester Sessions last made betweene Halton [Holton] and Blackford whereby it appeared that att the instance of Halton in the presence of Mr. Trevillian of Councell with Blackford this Court did then lymitt the last of May now last past for George Croyden, John Wadman, John Pyne, Walter Baker and William Viagars or anie three of them (viewers) appointed by the consent of both parties for the view of every particuler estate within both places in order to a settlement and reconcileinge of the inequality of Rates) to bringe in theire view or Certificate. And whereas three of the said viewers (vizt.) the said George Croyden, John Payne, and Walter Baker, have certified under theire hands that upon examination they find Halton to bee in yearely vallew fflower hundred nynety one pounds and tenn shillings, and Blackford but twoe hundred twenty and eight pounds, this court upon consideracon had of the said order and Certificate doth order that Halton bee from hencefourth untill Bridgewater Sessions next and from thenceforwards unles good cause bee then shewed to Contrary rated double the vallew of Blackford as it appeareth to have beene used, Provided that notice bee given to some or one of the Inhabitants of Halton of this order by the space of one moneth att the least before the same Sessions.

2. Giles Winterhay a pencioner as a maymed souldier of our late Queene Elizabeth his pension beinge yearely five marks came unto this Court and released his said pension, in consideration of halfe of one yeares pay to bee paid unto him by Henry Bonner Esqr. Treasurer for the maymed souldiers (viz.

16s. 8d. in hand and 16s. 8d. upon delivery upp of his patent to the said Treasurer which this Court doth desire and order to bee paid accordingly).

3. Upon readinge the petition of Mary Wellman thereby shewing that shee hath susteyned greate losse by fire which lately happened in her dwellinge howse this Court doth referr the hearinge of this business unto the two next Justices of Peace who are desired to certify the same att the next generall sessions of the peace to bee held for this County.

4. Upon readinge of an order of Ivelchester Sessions last betweene Nettlecombe and the Towne of Wivelscombe and upon hearinge of Mr. Turbervill of Counsell with Nettlecombe who doth not oppose the said order but alleadgeth that the moneyes now required by Wivelscombe or the greatest parte thereof are already levyed upon a five miles Rate by Marsh the Constable of Wivelscombe, This Court doth therefore confirme their said former order but withall doe desire John Newton and Charles Staynings Esq<sup>rs</sup> to convene the said Marsh and the Inhabitants of Nettlecombe before them and to take the Accompts of the said Marsh in their presence and in case they find the said Marsh faulty herein to bind him over to answere the same att the next Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County And forasmuch as it is informed by John Pyne Esq<sup>r</sup> one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace that hee yssueinge out warrants in pursueaunce of the said order made att Ivelchester Sessions the same warrants were by severall persons of Nettlecombe disobeyed and slighted; This Court doth likewise desire the same justices to examine the disobedience and slightinge of the same warrants and to deale with such persons as shall appeare faulty as to lawe and Justice shall appertayne.

5. Whereas a tryall hath beene had att this Sessions by consent of the parishes of Bromefeild and Enmore of the yssue joyned upon the Indictment against Thomas Gardiner of Bromefeild for takeinge a distresse upon certen lands in Blaxoll within the parish of Bromefeild for a Tithinge Rate (whereby Blaxoll was rated to Bromefeild) and the said Gardiner found

guilty It appearinge cleerely to this Court that Blaxoll is a subtithinge to Enmore and although theis seaven Tenements (viz.), Kirbics, both overhollwells, little hollwell, lower hollwell, walfords and Snowes, (upon one of which Tenements (viz.) lower hollwell the said distresse was taken by the said Gardiner) lye within the said parishe of Bromefeild, yett ought to pay Tithinge rates to Enmore (as a subtithinge thereunto) and not to Bromefeild, This Court doth declare itselfe to bee well satisfied with the said verdict and doth therefore order and adiudge that the said seaven Tenements in Blaxoll doe and shall from hencefourth pay Tithinge Rates to Enmore and not to Bromefeild, and doth require that the Tithinge Rates bee from hencefourth made accordingly, Any former order notwithstanding And it is further ordered by the consent of both parties that this order shall not extend to parishe rates for the Church and Poore.

6. Upon hearinge of the matters in variaunce twixt the severall parishes of North Petherton and Aish Priors about a base child in the presence of Counsell on both sides, and upon readinge of severall orders made touchinge the said child, it beinge alleadged on thone side that the said child was settled att Aish Priors and therefore ought thither bee sent from North Petherton (where it is now remayneinge, and on thother side that the said child was borne att North Petherton and therefore ought there to remayne; It is now by consent of the said parties ordered that the said child bee sent back from North Petherton to Aish Priors there to remayne untill the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County, and duringe that tyme Aish Priors to pay ijs. p weeke to the overseers of North Petherton towards its keepinge, And in case the mother of the said child shall then appeare to have beene vagrant then the said child is to bee sent back to North Petherton and there settled otherwise to rest settled att Aish Priors.

7. Upon readinge the Petition of the overseers of Poore and other parishioners of the parishe of Chew whereby it appeareth that one John Cox of Chew aforesaid labourer did heretofore

marry with the daughter of one Robert Buck of the same parishe by whome hee hath three children which are yett very small, And whereas it hath pleased God to visitt the said Cox with the desease of the fallinge sicknes by means whereof hee is fallen into poverty beinge utterly disabled to worke and make provision for his said wife and children; And for that the said Robert Buck hath twoe liveings in the said parishe of Chew with the cleere yearely vallew of 50*l.* att the least and hath noe chardge to maynteyne but himselfe, yett will not afford any releife to his said daughter and her children in this theire greate necessity And forasmuch as the said parishe of Chew is overchardged with Poore, This Court by vertue of the Statute in the like cases made and provided doth therefore order that the said Robert Buck doe weekely and every weeke pay or cause to bee paid unto the overseers of the Poore of the said parishe of Chew the some of two shillings of lawfull money of England towards the mayntenaunce of his said daughter and children, and this payment to continue untill further order shalbee made by this Court.

8. Upon readinge the certificate of John Buckland and Richard Jones, Esq<sup>rs</sup>., touchinge a difference of Rates between the Inhabitants of the eastern division of the Hundred of Portbury and the Inhabitants of the Tithinge of Wraxall comprehendinge the parishes of Wraxall Nailezey and Burton within the western division of the said hundred whereby they certify that they find that auntiently the Rates of the said hundred were uncerten, And that the Tithinge of Wraxall with the said western division of the said hundred was chardged in all payments somewhat lesse then a full fowerth parte of the said hundred, of which proportions the Inhabitants of the other parishes did complayne as too easy, whereupon (accordinge to an order of the then twoe next Justices) a presentment was brought unto the said justices by the Inhabitants of the said Hundred of the number of acres within theire respective Tithings, upon which presentment an acre Rate was drawen upp and accordingly for some tyme practised untill the Inhabitants of the said Tithinge of Wraxall varied from the same upon pretence of disproportion which seeme to bee soe small as not worthy of



consideration, this Court doth therefore think fitt and soe order that the Rates that are now in beinge doe stand in force untill the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held att Wells for this County and from thence forwards unles the Inhabitants of the Westerne division of the said hundred shall then shew good cause to the contrary, and obedience is thereby required by all persons concerned in the premises.

Ordines pro spuriis.

- (1) For the keeping a child called Anne born in the parish of Chew Magna, dated the 19th day of June, 1648.
- (2) For the keeping of a child called Margerie born in the parish of Clutton dated the 7th day of July, 1648.

The Accompt of John Preston, Esqr., Treasurer for the hurt and maymed souldiers in the County of Somersett begunn at Ivelchester Sessions 1647 and given upp at Ivelchester Sessions, 1648.

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GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE HELD AT BRIDGEWATER in the County aforesaid the third, fourth, and fifth days of October in the year of the reign of our Lord Charles, by the grace of God, etc., the twenty-fourth (1648), before John Buckland, Charles Staynings, Henry Bonner and John Newton, Esquires, Justices of the said Lord the King.

1. Uppon Complaint made to this Court for and on the behalfe of William Clarke late of Croscombe that hee the said Clarke did ffebruary last oblige himself as a Covenant servant to John Dyer of Wells for one yeare and havinge casually scalled himselfe is become unfitt to worke and in that respect is refused to bee and remayne att Wells with his said master. It is now ordered that the said Clarke shalbe and remayne att Wells with his said master untill Wells Sessions next and the said Dyer to

provide for him and then both Wells and Croscombe to bee further heard touchinge the premisses, provided that this order shall not prejudice either place as to pointe of Settlement.

2. Uppon readinge of the Petition of John Carse of Tymberscombe where hee desireth (amongst other things) to haue a licence to sell beere, This Court referreth the consideration of this parte of the said Petition to George Lutterell and Marmaduke Jennings, Esq<sup>rs</sup>., who are desired to doe therein as to justice shall apperteyne.

3. Uppon readinge of an order of Taunton Assizes last whereby a reference was made to 4 Justices of the Peace touchinge a difference betweene Richard Hunt and Joseph Griffeth his servant and uppon hearinge the saide matter now in Court, this Court doth order that the said Hunt shall forthwith receive his said apprentice and keepe him untill Wells Sessions next peremptorily and alsoe to keepe him from thenceforwards accordinge to the Indentures of Apprentishood [*sic*] betweene them unles the said Hunt havinge notice of this order shall shew good cause to the contrary.

4. Uppon readinge of an Order of Taunton Sessions last made betweene Halton (Holton) and Blackford whereby a certificate touchinge the vallew of the states of both places in order to equall ratinge was confirmed untill this Session and now uppon hearinge of certen objections made by Halton against the said certificate This Court doth againe in the presence of both parties ratify the said certificate and confirme the said order of Taunton Sessions untill Wells Sessions next. But forasmuch as it was by consent of both parties referred to five persons or anie three of them to certify the vallew of the same estates and onely three of the same persons certified as by the Certificate before mentioned appeareth and thother twoe dissented This Court doth respit a further tyme to confirme the said order and Certificate then to Wells Sessions next, and doth then give way to Halton to bringe anie Certificate of the dissentinge Referrees shewinge the reasons of their dissent to the said Certificate but the quality

or inequallity of the Rates is not then to come in question. And att the said next Sessions this Court will finally determyne the premisses.

5. Uppon the Petition of John Gillett unto this Court referred therein shewing that this petitioner havinge receaved great losse by fire, his dwelling howse and all his goods beinge likewise consumed, by meanes whereof his body likewise is greivously scalded and is become unable to releive himself; John Newton Esq<sup>r</sup> late Tresurer of Hospitalls of the western division to pay to the said John Gillett the "some of forty shillings of the arreres in his hands towards his releife."

6. Uppon the humble desire of Ralph Frauncis to have certen chardges allowed him by the Inhabitants of Pitney and Wearne which he disbursed in prosecutinge of William Hawker and John Hawker to have a way leadinge through theire grounds to bee laid open, for the better defrayinge of which chardges as it hath beene affirmed a rate have [*sic*] beene made by the said Inhabitants, This Court doth referr the same desire to John Newton and Marmaduke Jennings Esq<sup>rs</sup> to call the parties before them and make such order as shalbee agreeable to Justice.

7. Whereas Robert Bouren, Thomas Skynner, Richard Cookesby, William Stephens, John Burge, John Sealy and William Liddon of Upton in this County were bound to appeare att this Session for refuseinge to pay theire Tithinge rates—George Lutterell and Charles Staynings Esq<sup>rs</sup> will be pleased to convent the aforesaid parties before them and make such order therein as the said Justices shall think fit. Any of the said parties neglecting or refusing to perform such order to be bound over to the next general sessions to answer their contempt.

8. The final determination as to the question of the settle-ment between the parishes of North Petherton and Aish Priors as to whether the mother of the child had been vagrant in law or not referred until the "opinion of the judges of Assize bee taken herein."

9. Dorothy Petticoate of Cosington beinge presented for tippling without licence and havinge confest the same This Court hath ymposed on her the fforfeiture [*sic*] of xxsh. *secundum stat 3<sup>o</sup> Carol R<sup>s</sup>*. which is to be forthwith paid unto Thomas Hodges Esq<sup>r</sup>. who is desired to cause the same to bee delivered unto the Overseers of the Poore of Cosington aforesaid to bee by them distributed amongst the Poore of the parish there according to the said statute.

10. Forasmuch as it appeareth that the buyinge upp of Barly by maulsters in the marketts of this County and the excessive wettinge and convertinge the same into malt in theis tymes of scarcity doth dayly inhaunce the price thereof, and may probably bringe the price of barley to bee soe high, that the poore may not bee able to attayne thereunto and soe must consequently perishe or bee reduced to great want, This Court to prevent theis inconveniences and all other of this nature, doth thinke fitt that accordinge to former order noe person or persons in this County other then such as have barley groweinge of theire owne, Tithe Corne, or Rent Corne, and other then such as are already licensed doe from hencefourth converte Barly into malt unles for theire owne use without licence first obteyned. And that noe malster licensed or to bee licensed doe from hencefourth buy anie barley to converte into mault in anie of the Markett Townes of this County. And doth hereby further order that noe maulster licensed or to bee licensed doe from hencefourth wett or converte anie more barley into mault other then three quarters in anie one weeke, And in case it shall hereafter bee made appeare by good prooffe before anie one of his Majesty's Justices of the peace of this County that this order shall have beene broken in all or anie parte by anie maulster licensed or to bee licensed, such maulster is hereby declared and adjudged to bee from thencefourth actually suppressed, Anie former order notwithstandinge.

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GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD THE KING HELD AT WELLS in the County aforesaid the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth days of January in the year of our Lord Charles, by the Grace of God the twenty-fourth (1648-9). Before William Ceely, Alexander Popham, John Pyne, Richard Cole, John Hipposley, Henry Bonner, Richard Jones, Thomas Latch and John Carew, Justices of our Lord the King.

1. Honoured Sirs

Accordinge to an Ordinaunce of Parliamt<sup>t</sup> for the releife of Orphans and widowes whose husbands have lost their lives in defence of the Parliament service, this bearer in the behalfe of her mother Johane Cuffe (whose husband lost his life in the Towne of Taunton) is thought fitt to have the weekly alloweaunce (for her mainteunce and lively hood) of xij<sup>d</sup> to bee continued untill the next Quarter Sessions to bee held in this County or farther order therein, In all which your approbation is desired in the assistaunce hereof and of the Petitioner which is recommended by

Yor lovinge freinds  
Marmad: Jennings  
Joh Newton.

The abovesaid weekly alloweaunce of xij<sup>d</sup>. is thought meete by this Court to bee continued untill the next Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County and then this Court will take the premisses further into consideracon.

2. Whereas this Court is informed by the Petition of the grand Inquest ympannelled att the Court Leete held for the hundred of Brewton about michaelmas last that att the said Court accordinge to the auncient custome within the same hundred John Walter and Edward Moore were presented Constables for the hundred for the ensueinge yeare who havinge notice thereof have nott as yett tendered themselves to bee sworne whereby the service is neglected; The two next Justices



to Brewton to convene the ſaid parties before them and to ſwear the ſaid Walter and if they ſhall think fit and if they ſhall reſuſe to take their oaths to bind them ſo reſuſing to the next general ſeſſions.

3. David Clowter of Cheddar in the County of Somerſett yeoman maketh oath That whereas att the generall Seſſions of the Peace held for this County in the twoe and Twentieth yeare of his now Maſteſty's Raigne The Kings highway for foote lyinge in the pariſhe of Cheddar aforeſaid betweene a certen place called Hannah meade towards the north end of the ſame meade and a certen other place there called Croſſemore leading from the Bridge of Cheddar to the Towne of Axebridge was preſented by a Jury ympannelled att the ſaid Seſſions to enquire for the hundred of Bempſtone to bee foundeſous and in decay, and that the ſame ought to bee repaired by the Lady Katherine Thynne, the ſaid highway is not yett repaired nor cann bee att preſent by reaſon of the greate influence of waters thereon.

4. This Court doth order that from hencefourth Andrew Phillipps bee allowed his former pay of ſix pounds a yeare accordinge as by the ſaid Petition is deſired untill this Court ſhall take further order and the Treſurer of the maymed ſouldiers is from hencefourth to act by this order.

5. Uppon readinge of the Petition of the Bayliffe Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Burrough of Ivelcheſter thereby ſhewing that by meanes of the late warrs theire Burrough is ſoe much ypoveryſhed that they are not able to mainteyne theire owne poore, and therefore they deſire that ſeverall parcells of land lyinge within the perambulations Circuite and bounds of the ſaid Burrough in the Common meade and elſewhere (which att preſent pay nothinge to the poore) may from hencefourth bee rated to pay towards the releife of the poore of the ſaid Towne and burrough.

Referred to the two next juſtices of the Peace to make ſuch order therein as ſhall be meet, or to certify the true ſtate of this matter at the next general ſeſſions.

6. The matter of the petition of William Marne (Marnell) is referred unto John Newton and Marmaduke Jennings, Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

7. The matter of the petition of Susan Simcox referred unto the same Justices.

8. Uppon readinge the petition of Richard Feare of the parishe of Lullington attested by the minister and severall Inhabitants of the said parish whereby hee desireth releife from the parishe in regard' to his beinge maymed and wounded by severall Cavaleire souldiers of Sir Frauncis Doddingtons This Court doth order that the said parishe doe provide for the said Petition<sup>r</sup> accordinge to his necessity and want.

9. Uppon Informacon made unto this Court that one Robert Badon of Woollavington who is Indebted unto George Tiverton of the parishe of Winscombe, in regard the said Tiverton is of late growne somewhat distracted and lunatique doth refuse to pay the said moneyes to the said Tiverton, This Court doth order in regard the said Tiverton is poore and needeth releife from the parish that the said Badon doth fourthwith pay the said three pounds to the overseers of the Poore of the said parishe of Winscombe to the use of the said Tiverton or shew good cause to the contrary unto Richard Cole and Thomas Latche Esq<sup>rs</sup> att theire next sittinge after notice to him given of this order. And in case hee shall fayle herein the Justices or either of them are desired to bind the said Badon to answere the same att the next generall Sessions &c.

10. Uppon the Complaint of the feoffees of the Almes howse of Froome zelwood that there beinge fower pounds *p. ann.* payeable to the said Almeshowse out of the Hospitall money for the County the same is in arrere for the space of five yeares att the least and the said feoffees desire satisfaction of and for the said Arreares. Order that in case the said feoffees will accept of Eight pounds in full of the said Arreres and remitt, that the Treasures for the Hospitalls of this County doe pay the some of eight pounds to the said feoffees or anie of them.

11. Uppon oath made in Court that Ursula Surradge who was bound by Recognizance to appeare att this Sessions to answere for refuseinge to find a Tithingman for this yeare in the Tithinge of Badialton accordinge to an order made att the Court Leete held for the Hundred of Milverton, is now soe sicke that shee cannot appeare without danger of her life; This Court doth order that an Indictment bee forthwith preferred against the said Ursula Surradge for the said refusall and that Edward Sharpe Manucaptor for the said Ursula and now in Court shall forthwith appeare and on the behalfe of the said Ursula traverse the said Indictment and enter into a Recognizance *de novo* to prosecute the same traverse at Ivelchester Sessions next.

12. Uppon readinge of a petition of the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Burrough of Bridgewater to Justice Godbold one of his Majesty's Justices of Assize for the western Circuit thereby shewing that the same Burrough lyinge within the Hundred of North Petherton there grew some yeares since a controversie betweene the Petitioners and the Inhabitants of the Hundred concerninge a proportionable rate for the Burrough in the payment of future taxes ymposed generally on the Hundred which controversie havinge beene referred to severall Referrees they did order that the said Burrough should bee rated as to the eighth parte of the hundred and not otherwise, although some of those Referrees had then lands within the hundred lyeable to the taxes thereof but noe such order was now produced And it is further shewed by the said [ ] that there had beene severall other References sithence touchinge the premisses in particular, the said Justice Godbold referred the same to Sir Thomas Wroth Kn<sup>t</sup> John Pyne and Henry Henley Esq<sup>rs</sup> which references havinge taken noe effect, therefore it was now prayed that this Court would thinke on some other Referrees to examine and determine the same matter; this Court by the consent of both parties doth referr this busines to the said Sir Thomas Wroth and John Pyne and to Marmaduke Jennings and John Newton Esq<sup>rs</sup> and to Richard Trevillian Robert Blake Edward Ceely and Jonathan Pitt Esq<sup>rs</sup> or any five of them, to examine and determine the same yf they cann

betweene this and the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County, otherwise to certify the true state thereof to this Court.

13. This Court, examininge the behaviour of Mr. John Poyton Keeper of the howse of Correction att Shepton Mallett in the execution of his said office and findinge the same to haue beene very ill, and the said John Poyton to haue forfected [*sic*] the trust reposed in him in the said office, doth declare all power and authority given to the said Mr. Poyton to bee Keeper of the said howse of Correction to bee null and void, And doth make and ordeyne George Webb of Shepton Mallett Clothier to bee Keeper of the said howse of Correction for the tyme to come to hould and enioy the same office and all fees and priuiledges incident therevnto to the said George Webb duringe soe longe as hee shall well behaue himselfe in the said office, And further that the said George Webb shall haue paid him thirty pounds *p. ann.* fee for the executon of the same office.

14. It is ordered by this Court that Mr. Poyton the late Keeper of the howse of Correction att Shepton Mallett doe deliver over the Prisoners workinge tooles and materialls belonginge to the said howse by Indenture forthwith to George Webb the present Keeper; And it is further ordered that the said Mr. Poyton and his Deputy shall have tyme duringe twenty eight daies now next ensueinge to remove their goods from the said howse of Correction.

15. Uppon readinge of the Petition of John Baker and hearinge the matter touchinge the Infant Child of Mr. Lees the late minister of Huishe parishe This Court doth declare the said Child to bee settled in Huish and order that all such estate as belongeth to the said child and in the hands of Mr. Ravens unckle of the child or anie other shall goe towards its maintenance, and what shalbee wantinge to make upp a maintennce to bee supplied by the said parishe of Huishe, and the said child to bee noe further chardgeable to the said Baker other then in proportion with the rest of his neighbours by a rate for the Poore.

16. Uppon the petition of Frauncis Meade, John Fox and others there shewing that there are in the parishes of North Curry and Gregory Stoake severall tenements to which belonge lands called Old Auster or customary lands lyinge in severall tithings within the said parishes and that the said Old Auster lands have alwaies (untill of late yeares) beene rated within that Tithinge where the said tenements lye ; And that there is now a difference betweene the Petitioners and the Inhabitants of the Tithinge of Knapp beinge a Tithinge within the said parishes which have rated them contrary to the auntient practice ; This Court doth desire that the three next Commissioners for the weekly tax adjoininge to North Curry wilbee pleased to convene before them some of the ablest and sufficientest men of the said parishes and Tithinge, and examine the difference betweene them and to compose it yf they may, yf not to certify theire proceedings and opinions therein to the next Sessions.

17. Whereas Complaint hath beene made unto this Court by the Inhabitants of the Hundred of North Curry that a certain Bridge called Stanmore bridge within the said Hundred is very much in decay and out of repaire, And have alsoe informed this Bench that by a former order made att the Assizes of this County Tenn parishes mentioned in that order (viz.) Aller, Ham, Langport, Huishe, Drayton, Curry Reeve, North Curry, Gregory Stoake, ought to repaire the said bridge ;

Ordered that the inhabitants of the said ten parishes do according to the said former order forthwith make rates in their severall respective parishes for the repair of the said bridge and cause it speedily to be repaired sufficiently : if any of them shall neglect or refuse so to do, then the next justice of the peace to bind the parties refusing or neglecting to the next Sessions.

18. Order concerning a base child brought into the parish of Childcompton by its mother who formerly lived there, and there left it with a poore ould woman receiving Almes of the said parishe. Declared that the child being at Childcompton shall not amount to a settlement ; and further desired the two next justices to Childcompton to punish the parents and charge them towards its maintenance.



19. Uppon readinge the Petition of John Norfolke, William Iyyleafe, Walter Singer and John Withy all of them of the Tithinge of Froome to have a rate made within the same Tithinge for raysinge of five pounds yssues which was levyed on the Petitioners by processes out of the Exchequer by reason of the insufficiency of a way within the same Tithinge which way ought to bee repayed by the inhabitants of the said Tithinge, This Court doth thinke fitt that the said five pounds bee raised by an equall rate to bee made within the said Tithinge as hath beene used in such cases.

20. Uppon readinge the Petition of William Clarke a felon in the goale of Ivelchester shewing that att the tyme of his apprehension which was in October last hee had eight pounds taken from him which is now in the hands of Mr Sheppard, Constable of the Hundred of Keynsham which hee desireth to have restored to him to mainteyne him in prison which this Court thinketh reasonable and doth order the same accordingly, savinge that the chardge of conveyinge the said Clarke to the goale is to bee deducted out of the said eight pounds.

21. Further order for viewing the several places of Blackford and Halton within the tithing of Blackford: in case the said Mr Croydon (beinge now absent from home) shall not retourne before thend of that tyme [twoe monethes] att bee contented to joyne in the said view, Mr. Jerome Abbott to joyne with the said other fower viewers. [See Bridgwater Sessions, order 4; Taunton Sessions, order 1; Ivelchester Sessions, order 3.]

22. Uppon readinge of an order of Bridgewater Sessions last touchinge the settlement of one William Clarke, it now cominge in question betweene Wells and-Croscombe, att which of the said places the said Clarke ought to bee settled, the case beinge that the said Clarke was bound apprentice att Croscombe for twelve yeares which ended about one yeare since att which tyme hee was brought to Wells and placed there with one Dyer as a Covenante servant for one yeare, This Court uppon full hearinge of both sides doth declare that the said bindinge of the said Clarke as a Covenante servant to the said Dyer doth not amount

to a settlement of the said Clarke att Wells, in regard it doth appeare to have beene a practice by Croscombe to free themselves from the said Clarke who was growne ympotent att least three yeares before hee was bound to the said Dyer, But yett doth thinke fitt that the said Clarke doth serve out his tyme with the said Dyer accordinge to the said Covenante.

23. This Court havinge received a Petition from many well affected and poore distressed people of this Country to the number of three hundred att the least, whereby they represent theire great sence of the dearth of all sorts of graine and victualls occasioned through the multiplicity of Alehowses both licensed and unlicensed and of the many forestallers Ingrossers, Hucksters, and Maulsters swarming in this County, doth thinke fitt to order and declare And it is ordered and declared as touchinge Alehowses and tipplinge howses, that from and after the first day of March now next cominge all licensed Alehowses and Tipplinge howses whatsoever within this County and especially the tipplinge howses kept by Thomas Ponter of Babcary Thomas Andrewes of Queene Camell and Michael Chamberlaine of Castle Cary bee actually suppressed and that all licenses graunted to the same persons or anie of them or any other Alehowsekeepers or Tiplers bee from thenceforth null and voyd to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and that yf the persons beforenamed or anie of them or anie other person or persons shall presume to sell beere or ale without license, hee and they must expect to haue the utmost penalty of the lawes and statuts of the Realme inflicted uppon them, And it is further ordered That from and after the said first day of March noe licence shalbee graunted to anie person or persons to sell ale or Beere within this County but att the generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County or some speciall Sessions of the peace to bee held within the division where the person or persons to bee licensed shall dwell, and then onely to such person and persons as inhabite and dwell in Markett Townes, Porte Townes harbours landinge places and mineries, whereof all persons concerned herein are to take notice, And that in case anie license shalbee graunted contrary to this order, this Court doth declare and adiudge the same to bee actually voyd.

And as touchinge Forestallers Regrators Ingrossers and Hucksters, This Court doth desire that the Justices of the Peace in theire severall and respective divisions doe have a speciall eye uppon all offenders that shall appeare or bee discovered unto them of this nature and not suffer them to escape unpunished.

And as touchinge maulsters, This Court revisinge a former order made by itselfe att Bridgewater Sessions last in theis words (see Order No. 10), doth thinke fitt to ratify and confirme the same order to all intents and purposes, and doth further order that noe mault shalbee sold but in open markett; and itt is further ordered that theis severall orders bee forthwith published in every markett by the Constables or other head officers there, and in every parishe Church by the ministers thereof respectively the next Lords Day after the receipt thereof.

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THE GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE HELD AT IVEL-CHESTER in the County aforesaid the third, forth and fifth days of April in the year of our Lord One thousand six hundred and forty-nine. Before William Ceely, John Pyne, John Newton, Edward Ceely, Henry Bonner, Marmaduke Jennings, Thomas Latch, Richard Jones and John Hipplesley, Esquiers.

1. Uppon readinge of the petition of Deborah Beacham of Yeovell in this County widow attested by diverse well affected and honest men of the said parish. It appeareth unto this Court that George Beacham late husband of the said Dorothy was a faithfull souldier in the service of the Parliament under the Comaund of Sir Arthure Hasselrigg and dyed in the same service and leavinge the said Dorothy with three small children in a very distressed Condition and likely to perishe for want of releife This Court (in regard of her said husbands good service) doth especially recommend hersaid Condition to the Consideration of the Overseers of the poore of the said parish of Yeovell, And that they doe forthwith advaunce her alloweaunce of 8<sup>d</sup> the weeke now paid her to a more considerable releife for her and her

Children. And it is further ordered that shee shall haue now paid her 10s<sup>4</sup> by the now Treasurer of the maymed souldiers for her present reliefe.

2. Uppon hearinge of the parishioners of Eddington and Woollavington concerninge the settlement of Ann Norton And uppon readinge of an order made by Marmaduke Jennings and John Newton Esq<sup>rs</sup>; Confirming the order made by the said two Justices settling the said Ann Norton at Woollavington untill good cause bee shewed to this Court to the contrary.

3. Uppon readinge the petition of the poore almesmen of Somerton therein complayninge that a great parte of their yearly maintennce yssueinge out of the Mannor of Middlezoy in this County is now detayned from them by reason of a difference betweene Mr Jeanes who formerly paid it and one John Clarke of Middlezoy aforesaid, soe that the said Almesmen are like to perishe for want thereof; The two next Justices adjoining to Somerton to examine the difference and settle it, any party refusing to submit to their order to be bound to the next Sessions.

4. Uppon readinge of an order of Bridgewater Sessions last whereby it was ordered that the poore people of Taunton St. James then in Hestercombe howse should within a fortnight then next cominge remove into their parishes wherein they formerly dwelt, Now uppon complaint made to this Court that although the said poore had notice of the said order yett they have refused to obey the said order by removinge; It is therefore ordered that the said poore doe within one moneth next after notice of this order remove accordingly, and in case they shall neglect or refuse soe to doe the next Justice of the Peace uppon complainte to him made thereof is desired to Committ such person and persons as shall become faulty herein to the Common Goale there to remayne untill hee and they shall become bound by recognizaunce with sureties to answer the same att the then next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County.



5. Uppon readinge the petition of Mrs Mary Raymond daughter of Thomas Raymond of Northover Esqr therein complayninge that her said father's estate in Northover aforesaid beinge now under Sequestration and shee havinge taken the same att a yearly rent of the Comittee of this County is much overrated both in the rates to the monethly contribucon and to the Church and poore This Court doth desire that the next Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for contributions thereunto adjoyninge respectively wilbee pleased to examine the inequallity of the said rates and in case they find cause to alter the same as shalbee most agreeable to Ordinaunces lawes and Statutes in such like cases made and provided.

6. Uppon readinge the Petition of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Ileabbotts therein shewinge that there is a certen parcel of land called Asbeare which lyeth within the parish and Tithinge of Ileabbotts aforesaid now in the tenure of John Elliott and hath ever heretofore paid all manner of rates within the parishe of Ileabbotts untill now by the practice of the said Elliott it is alsoe rated in the parish of Curry Mallett by the parishe of Northover; this Court doth desire John Pyne and John Newton Esqrs to examine where the same lands ought in right to be rated and order the same to be rated accordingly and to do farther therein as shall be agreeable to Justice.

7. Whereas att the Generall Sessions of the Peace held for this county att Taunton Anno xxiiij<sup>o</sup> *Caroli nuper Regis Anglie*, It was (amongst other things) ordered that Tenn pounds parcell of a some of fifty pounds then to bee received of one Mr. Harbyn should bee paid to Richard Jones Esqr one of the Justices of the peace for this County then Treasurer of the Hospitalls for the Easterne division to bee by him ymployed in and about the rebuildinge of one end of the howse of Correction at Shepton Mallett which moneyes were not paid to the said Mr Jones and consequently not ymployed as it was ordered; This Court concerninge a greater necessity then formerly for the rebuildinge of the said howse dothe thinke fitt and order that Benjamyn Pitt Esqr the now Treasurer for the said Hospitalls for the easterne division shall receive the same Tenn pounds and that



the same Treasurer doe out of his receipts add five pounds more to the said Tenn pounds to bee ymployed as was before ordered touchinge the said tenn pounds, And Mr George Millard and Mr Richard Birt of Shepton Mallett are desired to see that the said fifteene pounds bee ymployed where there is most need att present.

George Webb now Governor of the howse of Correction above mentioned is by order of this Court to receive the the Tenn pounds in behalfe of Mr Pitt.

8. Whereas the difference betweene the Inhabitants of North Curry and Knapp concerninge theire Rates was by order of Wells Sessions last referred to three Commissioners for the monethly tax, to settle the same as they should find most agreeable to Justice, and whereas by Certificate under the hands of Jasper Chaplaine, Richard Bovett and Henry Minterne gent. Commissioners for the said monethly assessment hath now certified this Court That uppon a full hearinge of the Case before them they find that there are diverse Tenements lyinge within the said parishes called ould Austerlands the howses whereof are within one tithinge and some parte of the lands thereunto belonginge lyewithin another tithingewhich Tenements have beene constantly assessed towards all payments in those Tithings where the howses respectively stand and for all the lands thereunto belonginge though parte of the said lands lye in other Tithings, and by severall orders the same hath beene paid accordingly untill of late yeares through the violence of the souldiary it hath beene inforced otherwise. And because the said Commissioners could not compose the said difference betweene the said twoe Tithings referred the same to the Judgement of this Court who doth there-uppon order and decree that the said Tenements from hence-forward shalbee taxed rated and assessed in the Tithinge where the howses doe respectively stand and for all the lands thereunto belonginge, though parte of the lands belonginge to the said Tenements doe lye in other Tythings; And yf anie shall refuse to conforme to this order accordingly uppon Complaint made to the next Justice of peace to bee bound to the next Sessions.

9. It is ordered that Thomas Latch Esqr. the new Trer. for maymed souldiers or his deputy forthwith receive such moneyes as the Constables have brought in or shall bringe in att this or anie other Sessions, And that the said treasurer or his deputy pay unto such maymed souldiers as have formerly received releife quarterly theire quarters pay accordinge to the proportions formerly paid unto them the said maymed souldiers being quallified accordinge to an order of this court made att Wells Sessions Anno xxij<sup>o</sup> *Caroli nuper Regis Anglie.*

10. Uppon hearinge of the matter in dispute twixt the parishe of Ditchett and towne of Glaston touchinge a childe which was brought to Ditchett by Timothy Towgood a vagrant person which said Timothy was heretofore borne att Glaston and in that respect was sent with the said Child from Ditchett to Glaston from whence the said Child was by Glaston retourned back to Ditchett but the said vagrant suffered to escape. It is ordered that the said Child beinge nowe att Ditchett shalbee sent to Glaston and the Overseers there are to receive and take care for the same and Ditchett is not to be charged therewith.

11. Uppon the petition of John Loscombe of the parishe of Trent thereby shewing that whereas Ann Trokes a poor childe within the same parish was bound an apprentice unto the petitioner's father beinge one of the Overseers there in 1640 without money untill her age of xxi. the petitioners father dyinge about five yeares since which maide is taken lame and hath divers wounds runninge in her body whereby shee is unable to do service and therefore the petitioner (beinge executor to his father) prayeth to bee freed of his said apprentice This Court doth hould the same desire reasonable and doth order that unles the parishioners of Trent doe att the next generall Sessions of the peace for this County shew good cause to the contrary the petitioner bee from thencefourth discharged and freed from further keepinge or enterteyninge of the said apprentice.

12. Uppon readinge of an order of Wells Sessions last made twixt Halton and Blackford and of a Certificate made in pur-

sueaunce thereof by George Croydon, John Payne and Walter Baker and uppon hearinge of both parties forasmuch as the Certificate is insatisfactory [*sic*] and conteyneth in it matters not comprehended in the Reference to the Referrees thus certifyinge, and for that it is dayly expected that the Parliament will direct and order some more equall way of ratinge then is now generally observed This Court doth not thinke it fitt to alter the present proportions of the said places of Halton and Blackford in theire ratings, but doth order that both places doe from hencefourth pay as now they doe untill this Court shall see further cause to alter the same, Anie former order or dirrection not withstandinge.

13. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the Churchwardens of the parishe of Pylton that divers inhabitants of the said parishe refuse to pay theire Church rates and other rates towards the reparation of the said Church, parte whereof beinge lately burnt, And that the inhabitants of Wootton where there is a Chapple of ease belonginge to Pylton have auntiently paid 6s. p ann. towards the Churchrates of Pylton doe now deny to pay the same, and that there is now 9 yeares in arrere ; the two next justices to make an order therein as they shall conceive to bee agreeable to the lawes and ordinaunces of this Kingdome or otherwise to certify theire opinions att the next Sessions how they find the same.

14. Uppon readinge the Petition of Richard Hellier of Babcary whereby hee sheweth that the Tenemente wherein hee dwelleth of the vallew of 30*/i*. per ann. was to find a Tithingman every ninth yeare and now of late the Tenemente being parted in halves by Agreement one halfe parte thereof was to defray the chardges of the said office for one halfe yeare and thother halfe parte the chardges for thother halfe yeare and hee further sheweth that John Creech Abraham Marshe William Goodale John Marshe and Thomas Hole houldinge one halfe of the said Tenemente ought to pay 13s. 4*d*. for the wages of the Petitioner who serveth the said office for this yeare which will end on Tuesday next, and yett they give out in speeches that they will not pay the same ; This Court doth therefore order the said Creech and the rest to forthwith raise the same

xiijs. iiij*d*. proportionably amongst them accordinge the parts they hould of the said Tenemente, and doe pay the same to the Petitioner, Or otherwise shew good cause to the contrary att the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this County.

15. Whereas Complaint is made unto this Court by the Inhabitants of the parishe of Pylton that one Mary Newman a vagrant person came into the said parishe and left a younge childe there in the howse of one Richard Webb charginge Henry Webb sonn of the said Richard to bee the father thereof, and that the said Richard Webb neglected to secure or apprehend the said Mary Newman but suffered her to escape leavinge the said child in his howse his said sonn chardged therewith hath ever since absented himselfe and the child is like to bee chardgeable to the said parishe of Pilton; Referred to the two next Justices to certify the truth of the case and their opinions therein at the next Sessions that order may be then made for the settling of the said child.

16. Forasmuch as uppon view and observation of severall Bridges of this County (which tyme out of minde have beene repaired and mainteyned att the chardge of the County and comonly called County Bridges) by the Justices of Peace in theire severall divisions in pursueaunce of an order of this Court it is found that by reason of the late warrs the same Bridges are generally throughout this whole County in very greate defect and out of repaire whereby Travellers many tymes are much obstructed in their Journeyes and passages and many of them forced to the hazard of theire lives, which Bridges cannott bee repaired as the same ought to bee without the expense of much money, soe that there is a necessity of a considerable tax in this particular to bee laid on the whole County, which tax by the opinion of this Court cannott bee lesse then the some of Twoe hundred pounds; This Court therefore to prevent such inconveniences as may ensue for want of repayreinge the said Bridges and beinge willinge to dischargdge its duty in this particuler doth thinke fitt to tax this whole County of Somersett att the some of Twoe hundred pounds of lawfull money of England for and towards the repayreinge of the said Bridges,

100*li.* to be laid and raised upon the Eastern Division and the other 100*li.* on the Western Division. Four Juſtices of the peace in each diſiſion to meet and rate the ſame ſums of 100*li.* upon each diſiſion equally and to appoint collectors. And further this Court doth nominate and appointe Mr. William Tucker of Shepton Mallett to bee Surveyor of the ſaid decayed Bridges within the Eaſterne Diſiſion and Mr. George Smith of Ivelcheſter to bee Surveyor of the ſaid decayed Bridges within the Weſterne Diſiſion of this County, to whome the Collectors to bee appointed are to pay the moneyes to bee aſſeſſed and collected touchinge the premiſſes. And the ſaid ſurveyors reſpectively are deſired to ſee the ſaid moneyes duely expended in and about the repayreinge of the ſaid decayed Bridges and to take care that the ſame Bridges bee well and ſufficiently repayed.

17. Thomas Latch Eſq<sup>r</sup>. is choſen Treasuſer of the maymed ſouldiers for this enſueinge yeare and Richard Jones Eſq<sup>r</sup>. and John Newton Eſq<sup>r</sup>. are intreated to take the Accompt of the late Treasuſers.

18. Thomas Siderfyn Eſq<sup>r</sup>. choſen Treasuſer of the Hoſpitalls for the Weſterne Diſiſion and Benjamin Pitt Eſq<sup>r</sup>. is choſen Treasuſer of the Hoſpitalls for the Eaſterne Diſiſion. Richard Jones and John Newton Eſq<sup>rs</sup>. are deſired to take the accompts of the late Treasuſers.

#### ORDERS FOR SPURIOUS CHILDREN.

1. For the releife of the pariſh of St. Cuthberts Wells and for the keeping of Ann a baſe child. 7th of March 1648.
2. An order made the 6th day of January 1648 concerning a baſe child born in the pariſh of Swell.

Whereas John Buckland Eſq<sup>r</sup>. high ſherriſſe of this County did now informe that the Goale is deſtitute of a miniſter to preach to the priſoners and that one Mr. Gaylard miniſter had in that reſpect beſtowed his paynes in preaching ſeverall tymes att the ſaid Goale. Now it beinge requiſite that the ſaid



Mr. Gaylard (beinge a man somewhat necessitated) should in some measure haue satisfaction for his paynes, and that the Goale should bee furnished with a preachinge minister for the tyme to come; This Court doth order that there bee paid to the said Mr. Gaylard for his said paynes the some of forty shillings, and that there bee the some of six pounds Tenn shillings per ann. paid yearely for a sermon to bee preached once every fortnight to the prisoners in the Goale (viz.) five shillings for a sermon to bee preached every fortnight. The said severall somes of money to bee paid by the Treasurers of both divisions for the Hospitalls of this County equally out of the surplus of the Hospitall money untill further order by this Court and the said sermons to bee preached by such person and persons as this Court shall from tyme to tyme nominate and appoint.

The Accompt of Henry Bonner Esqr. for the year 1648 for the maymed souldiers of the said County.

The Accompts of the Treasurers of Hospitalls, etc., from the Ivelchester Sessions 1648 until the same Sessions then following 1649.

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THE GENERAL SESSION OF THE PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON  
in the County aforesaid the tenth, eleventh and twelfth days  
of July in the year of the Lord One thousand six hundred  
and forty nine Before John Pyne, William Ceely, John  
Newton, Thomas Siderfyn, Charles Staynings, Thomas  
Latch, Marmaduke Jennings, Esq.

1. Uppon reading the petition of Thomasine Raynoll the wife of Thomas Rayall of Stogursey thereby complayninge of many abuses done to her by her husband through the instigation of James Wills and Elizabeth his wife; Referred to Charles Steynings and Thomas Siderfyn Esq<sup>rs</sup>. to hear and determine the same, or otherwise to certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions.

2. Uppon readinge the petition of George Alexander of Baltonsborough who sheweth thereby that hee is a very poore

man and hath a chardge to mainteyne and nothinge wherewithall to doe the same, nor hath anie howse of habitation of his owne ; And further hee informeth this Court that hee is a very infirme man of body and in that respect cannott labour to mainteyne his chardge, and therefore humbly prayeth that a certen howse which was heretofore erected in the said parishe for the use of the poore by the order of the Court may bee assigned unto him for his habitation, hee havinge the consent of the major parte of the said parishe thereunto already. This Court doth order that the said George Alexander with his wife and family bee by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poore of Baltonsborough aforesaid placed and settled to inhabite and dwell in the said howse soe built for the use of the poore untill further order by the Court unles good cause shalbee shewed to the contrary att the next Generall Sessions.

3. Uppon producing of an order of the Court touchinge severall Inhabitants of the parishe of Wootton who refuse to pay towards the reparations of the Church of Pilton whereby the examination thereof was referred to the twoe next Justices of the peace, and uppon readinge of a Certificate subscribed to the said order dated 6<sup>o</sup> Julij 1649: under the hand of John Hippesley Esq<sup>r</sup>. who certifieth that hee conceived that Wootton ought to pay six shillings yearely towards the reparacons of the Church of Pilton ; in case Pilton doth procure the other justice of the peace to sign the certificate that thenceforth Wootton shall pay the said six shillings yearly unless good cause to the contrary shall be shown at the next General Sessions.

4. Forasmuch as James Younge of the parish of Yatton husbandman was bound over to appeare att this generall Sessions of the Peace by Richard Cole Esq<sup>r</sup>., hee the said James beinge ympeached by one Ellianor Sidenham for beinge the reputed father of a base child ; Further testimony to be given and to state the same ready for Judgement of this Court against the next generall Sessions, etc.

5. Forasmuch as severall Gentlemen of the County have informed this Court of severall Clothes and other goods to a greate vallew stolne or plundered from them by severall illdis-

posed persons, and likewise that divers goods are concealed in the howse of John Knight of Purland within the parishe of Taunton St. James in the hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane which are suspected to bee the goods soc stolne. Theis are therefore to will and require you to make dilligent search and enquiry in the howse of the said John Knight for the said Clothes and goods and uppon findinge thereof to secure the same to bee disposed of accordinge to lawe.

To the Constables of the hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane and all other officers whome theis shall or may concerne.

6. Uppon readinge the Petition under the hands of severall of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Overstowey and the Articles added thereunto against one Robert Morris. The two next Justices to consider the same and to convene the said Morris before them and if they see cause to commit him to prison until he find good sureties for his "good abearinge" and to answer the premises at the next General Sessions.

7. Copy of writ of Nisi Prius in the case of Walter Lever-sadge *v.* Mary Mullens widow.

8. Uppon hearinge of a difference between the severall parishes of Chewstoake and Chew Magna touchinge the settlement of John Tankens his wife and three children, the case appearinge to bee that they had lived twoe yeares in Chewstoake undisturbed and from thence came to Chew Magna and there tooke part of a Cottage for their habitation for one yeare beginninge the Twenty fiveth day of March last, whereof the parishe of Chew Magna takinge notice found themselves aggrieved thereatt, and brought the same in question both before the next Justice of the peace of Chew Magna and att the Leete or Lawday, and yett neither the said Tankens his wife or children had beene actually chardgeable to the said parishe of Chew Magna, This Court in that respect thinketh not fitt to disturbe the said Tankens his wife or children duringe the said terme, But doth leave them to thend of the same terme to bee settled accordinge by lawe they ought. And because the parishioners of Chew Magna haue beene for the most parte of the tyme since the said

Tankens his wife and Children came to Chew Magna complayninge against them, This Court doth declare that the beinge of them att Chew Magna aforesaid duringe the said terme shall not bee interpreted to bee a settlement there.

9. Uppon hearinge of the difference betweene the severall parishes of Englishcombe and Witcombe touchinge the settlement of one Edward Allen, Inglishcombe endeavouringe to have the said Allen with his wife and children removed from their parishe and settled att Witcombe in regard they were dwellinge there for 3: quart<sup>rs</sup>. of a yeare without any disturbance and came from thence to Inglishcombe where they have beene ever since disturbed by complaints to severall Justices of the peace of the County; This Court in regard it doth not appeare that the said Allen with his wife and children have beene as yett actually chardgeable to Inglishcombe doth not thinke fitt to remove them from thence, yett doth declare that the beinge of them att Inglishcombe since their last cominge thither shall not bee interpreted to bee a settlement of them there.

10. This Court doth desire Marmaduke Jenninks [*sic*] and John Newton Esq<sup>rs</sup>., twoe of the Justices of the Peace of the County to take into Consideration what Costs and chardges John Flint hath beene putt unto by tymber and other things wherewith hee furnished the Lord Generall Fairfax for his better passage over Loadbridge and to give order to the Treasurer for Bridges for the western division to pay the same which order of the said Justices shalbee a sufficient warrant to the said Treasurer for his soe doenge.

11. This court in regard the howse of Correction att Shepton Mallett standeth in greate neede of repaire and the repayringe thereof will not admitt of anie delay, and in respect that the fiftene pounds ordered the last Sessions towards the repayreinge thereof out of the moneyes to bee had of one Mr. Harbyn and to bee paid by the Treasurer of the Hospitalls for the easterne division is not yett had; It is therefore ordered that Benjamyn Pitt Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for the Hospitalls for the easterne division doe on sight hereof pay unto George Webb the now Governor of the

said howse of Correction the some of fiteene pounds towards the repayinge of the same howse, and Mr. George Millard and Mr. Richard Birte are desired to see that the same bee ymployed accordingly as by the said former order is directed.

12. A child brought to Ditchcatt by one Timothy Towgood and since removed to Glaston, unless good cause should be then shown to be settled at Glaston.

13. Uppon readinge of an order of Bridgewater Sessions last made twixt the several parishes of North Petherton and Aish Priors, and hearinge both parties and their Counsell touchinge the settlement of a base child and uppon readinge the opinion of Lord Cheife Baron Wilde touchinge the same which is that the said Child ought to rest settled att Aish Priors where it is, and North Petherton to contribute towards the keepinge thereof which yf they shall refuse to doe the child to bee sent to North Petherton to bee kept by them This Court doth adjudge the said child to bee settled at Aish Priors accordinge to the said opinion of the Lord Cheife and doth order that North Petherton shall from hencefourth contribute onely twelve pence weekly and noe more to Aish Priors towards the maintennce of the said Child.

14. It is (att the instaunce of the parishioners of Dundry) desired by this Court that the fower next Justices of the Peace to Dundry or anie twoe of them will view the Annoyaunces of a certen way called Hazell lane lyinge in the parish of Dundry now in dispute twixt Winford and Dundry, and Certify unto this Court how they find the same att the next generall Sessions.

15. Uppon readinge of an order of Ivelchester Sessions last made uppon the Petition of Richard Hellier of Babcary, forasmuch as neither John Creech Abraham Marshe William Goodale Johane Marshe and Thomas Hole or any of them did now shew unto the Court anie good cause why they should not pay xiijs. iiijd. to the said Hellier towards his wages for servinge the office of Tithingman This Court doth ratify and confirme the said order of Ivelchester Sessions last and require the performaunce thereof by the said Creech and the rest to all intents and purposes.



16. Uppon readinge of the Petition of the Inhabitants and occupyers of the lands lyinge within the Manor tithinge and precinct of Preston Torles (Torrels) in the parish of Milverton thereby shewing that the Tithingmen of Preston Bowyer within the same parishe and there Associates haue contrary to auntient custome and without warrant made rates and assesments uppon the Petitioners and thereby unjustly burthened them and that in a most disproportionable manner and therefore they desire redresse therein:—This Court doth referr the Consideration of the said petition to the twoe next Justices of the Peace to Milverton and to the Commissioners for Assesments to whome by the lawes and ordinaunces of this Commonwealth the determination of this matter more particularly belongeth, desiringe them to doe the Petitioners right herein.

17. Uppon readinge of an order of Wells Sessions last touchinge the settlement of an infant child of Mr. Lees the late minister of Huishe which child is sithence dead and uppon hearinge of John Baker whose daughter the said Lee married who informed that hee had beene att greate charges in maynteyninge and burying of the said child As by his accompt appeareth and that hee hath goods in his hands which were of the said Lees, and by the said former order of this Court to go towards its maintenance and therefore prayeth to have his disbursements allowed out of the said goods, which this Court houldeth reasonable and doth order the same accordingly and desire John Newton Esq<sup>r</sup> to examine the Accompt of the said Baker touchinge the premisses and to make such alloweaunce to him as shalbee meete and such alloweaunce as shalbee made by the said Mr. Newton shall stand hereby ratified.

18. Whereas the Parishioners of the parishe of Compton Dando have informed this Court that by reason of the high way that was presented att Wells Sessions Anno 22 *Caroli nuper Regis Anglie* there have beene very greate yssues levied on the Inhabitants of the said parishe and the said Inhabitants havinge beene at very greate Costs and charges for the repayreinge of the said way and discharginge thereof; this Court doth referr the examination hereof to the twoe next Justices of the Peace who

are desired to call before them the said parishioners of Compton Dando to shew cause why the said severall somes should not bee levvyed by an equall and proportionable rate and further to doe therein accordinge to lawe.

19. Uppon readinge of an order of Ivelchester Sessions last touchinge one Henry Nashion sonn of Henry Nashion of the parishe of Liddiard Episcopi who beinge placed apprentice with Richard Pole of Liddiard Episcopi aforesaid by the parishioners there was transferred by the said Pole to John Kewer of Taunton to serve the remainder of his apprentishipp the said Pole assureinge the said Kewer that the said apprentice was very healthy and sound of body. And uppon readinge the Petition of the said Kewer, and uppon hearinge the said Pole and Kewer touchinge the premisses accordinge to the said order of Ivelchester Sessions and uppon hearinge of Mr. Quarrell surgeon and others uppon oath that have viewed the said Nashion, it appeareth cleerly unto this Court that the said apprentice was att the time of beinge placed an apprentice diseazed and unsound in body and unfitt to bee placed an apprentice. In which respect this Court is of opinion that the bindinge of the said apprentice with the said Pole was voydable and consequently the said apprentice never settled at Taunton And therefore doth order the said Nashion the apprentice to bee retourned back to the parish of Liddiard Episcopi as there settled to bee by the Overseers of the Poore there provided for untill the next Generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for the County and from thence forwards unles the said parishe of Liddiard Episcopi shall then shew better cause to the contrary.

20. Robert Farthinge of Kingston the father of John Farthinge deceased the reputed father of a base child, ordered to pay to the overseers of the poore of Cheddon Fitzpayne by virtue of an order made in December 1640 the arrears of a weekly payment of 8*d.* accordinge to the said order; the said Robert Farthinge with his said sonn gave bond for the payment thereof.

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GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT BRIDGWATER the second, third, and fourth days of October, 1649, Before Sir Henry Rolle, Chief Justice of the Pleas in the upper Bench, John Pyne, William Ceely, Thomas Siderfyn, Charles Steynings, Richard Cole, Thomas Gorges, Richard Jones, John Gorges, John Cary of Castle Cary, and Robert Morgan, Esquires.

1. A difference betweene the parishes of Dundry and Winford concerninge a certen highway presented to bee repaired by the Inhabitants of the parishe of Dundry and by them traversed to yssue which at this Sessions should have beene tryed ; This Court by consent of both parties doth referr the examination thereof unto Richard Cole and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> and to compose the difference betweene them yf they may, yf not the Traverse of the said presentment to be tryed att the next General Sessions.

2. The two next justices of the Peace to Baltonsborough to hear and determine whether George Alexander or Thomas Boole should be settled in a certain howse in the said parish of Baltonsborough "Forasmuch as some persons of the said parish did now offer reasons to this Court that one Thomas Boole a poore man of the said parish ought rather to bee settled in the said howse then the said Alexander."

3. Uppon readinge the Petition of Elizabeth Moore thereby shewing that shee was putt forth of her abidinge place by one John Stradlinge of Mooreland for that the said Stradlinge (as hee said) feared that the said Elizabeth with her children should come to bee chardgeable to the parishe for maintenance the petitioners husband beeing in prison, This Court beinge assured of the trueth of the said petition conceiveth it meete that duringe this exigency the said Elizabeth Moore bee provided for by the said parishe of North Petherton with a howse for her habitation And doth therefore order that the Overseers of the Poore of the said parish of North Petherton doe forthwith on sight hereof provide a sufficient howse of habitation for the Petitioner.

4. Uppon readinge the Petition of the severall Inhabitants of the parishe of Cannington whereby they desire that there may bee noe more Alehowses licensed att Cannington then onely those twoe who now have licences; Ordered that there shall not bee anie licence graunted or grautable to any person or persons for the sellinge of Ale or beere within the said parish other then to the twoe persons now havinge licence as aforesaid This order to bee published in the parish Church of Cannington by the minister there.

5. This Court uppon openinge the matter in dispute twixt Ursula Burrows and the parish of Ile Abbotts touchinge arreres of Poores money due to the said Ursula by the said parish doth att the request of the said Ursula and George Hutchens who was now present for and on the behalfe of the said parishe referr the hearinge and determininge of the said matter to John Pyne Esqr to arbitrate and determyne the same.

6. Uppon readinge the petition of the Aged people of the Hospitall of Glaston thereby complayninge of the severall arreres to them due and unpaid (viz.) xiiij<sup>li</sup> vjs viij<sup>d</sup> in Anno 1645: xiiij<sup>li</sup> vjs viij<sup>d</sup> in Anno 1646: vj<sup>li</sup> iij<sup>d</sup> in Anno 1648 and ij<sup>li</sup> in anno 1649; Referred to the Treasurer of the Hospitalls of the Easterne division of this County for collection and payment.

7. Uppon readinge the petition of Henry Hillinge and his wife of Langford Budvile thereby shewinge that one Amy Butcher of Langford Budvile aforesaid spinster beinge ymprisoned uppon suspicion of burninge of the petitioners howse was att the last Assizes held att Taunton bound with twoe sureties for her personall appearaunce att the next Assizes to bee held for this County to answere the same which suerties the petitioners discovereth to bee very meane and weake, viz. one of them likely to come to the parishe the other to leave the country—Marmaduke Jennings Esqr the nearest of the Justices of Peace to Langford Budvile to examine the trueth of this Petition, and if as alleged to put the said Amy to find better sureties.

8. The matter in difference touching the rating of the Tithing of Preston Bowyer and also of Preston Torles (Torrels) for want of full evidence referred to the two next Justices of peace to the said Tithings to call all the parties before them and to direct the rating of the said places.

9. Uppon readinge of the petition of Alice Kendon thereby complayninge that havinge beene settled in the parishe of Streete in service for the space of a yeare and a quarter now last past and now beinge unable to worke by reason of sicknes hath endeavoured to rent a howse at Streete aforesaid for her habitation which is apposed by the said parishe of Streete for feare (as they alleadge) shee may bee chargeable to them ; The two next Justices of the peace to Streete to settle the said Alice Kendon either att Streete or elsewhere accordinge to Law.

10. Uppon readinge the petition of Marke Huishe, George Pratt, Richard Kingsbury, and Margaret the wife of John Millard deceased (whiche said Huishe, Pratt, Kingsbury and Millard were overseers of the Poore of the parishe of Taunton St. James in the yeare 1646) thereby shewinge that they did theire uttmost to releive the Poore duringe the tyme of theire office and are out of purse over and above theire receipts the some of Tenn pounds and Eight shillings att the least, which by reason of the poverty of the place cannott conveniently bee raised there—The two next Justices of the Peace to Taunton St. James according to the Statute to rate any of the persons in the parishes in the Hundred of Taunton and Taunton Deane as they shall thinke meete, towards the payment of the said Tenn pounds and Eight shillings.

11. Uppon readinge the Petition of the present Church wardens and overseers of the Poore of Taunton St. James against Emanuel Micoe and Nicholas Standfast who beinge overseers for the poore in Anno 1645: neglected the poore and refuse to give in theire Accompts touchinge theire said office ; The two next Justices of to call the said Micoe and Standfast before them and to cause them to accompt herein.



12. Ellenor Sydenham from henceforth to be and stand settled at Wrington.

13. Whereas this Court is informed that one Frauncis Gullocke of the parishe of Midsomer Norton in the County beinge bound by Recognizaunce taken before John Hipplesley and Richard James Esq<sup>rs</sup> to observe the restraint made by the said Justices in the convertinge of barley into malt accordinge to a former order of this Court, notwithstandinge which Recognizaunce and restraint the said Gullocke doth continue in the excessive wettinge and convertinge barley into malt to the inhauncinge of the prizes of Corne, soe that consequently in stricknes of lawe the said Recognizaunce is become forfected and the said Gullocke lyeable thereunto; The examination thereof referred to the two next justices and if they see cause to bind the said Gullocke unto the next General Sessions.

14. Edward Allen a poor man not being vagrant to be settled with his wife and children at Englishcombe and not at Staunton Prior the place of his birth.

15. All persons to appear by Recognizances at the General Sessions not appearing on the first day to have their Recognizances forfeited and forthwith estreated.

16. Whereas this Court is informed that through the greate confluence of people of all sorts frequentinge meetings in this County commonly called Revells or wakes manie abuses are donn and committed and diverse quarrells mutinies and contentions doe arrise tendinge to the disturbaunce of the Publique peace, This Court doth declare that all such meetings called Revells or wakes are unlawfull and in themselves are noe other then unlawfull assemblies, and to prevent all inconveniences which for the future may arise by the same this Court doth order and require that from hencefourth there bee noe more Revells or wakes used or frequented within this County by anie person or persons whatsoever; and yf anie person or persons shall hereafter presume to sett on foote countenance or frequent anie such Wake or Revell the next Justice of the Peace is hereby desired uppon complaint

to him made to bind such person and persons to the next generall Sessions of the Peace to be held for this County then and there to answere for the same.

And it is hereby further ordered that this order bee forthwith published in every parishe Church twixt the tymes of Prayer and sermon by the minister there on the next Lords day after the receipt hereof.

17. Forasmuch as it is generally observed that this County doth very much swarme with wandringe and vagrant persons who escape with impunity through the neglect of Constables and other officers in their dueties, whereby those vagrant persons are many tymes ymboldened to committ murders robberies and thefts to the greate terrour and amazement of all honest men; This Court doth therefore require all Constables Tithingmen and other officers strictly to attend their severall dueties in this particuler. And bicause their vagrant persons are become numerous and therefore may not in an ordinary way bee apprehended and taken by Constables and Tithingmen without danger to the same officers, It is therefore thought meete and ordered that from hencefourth there bee att the equall chardges of every Tithinge in this County respectively constant watches kept from Sunrisinge to sunsett by twoe able persons att the least in each Tithinge att the most eminent Crosse way there, the same persons beinge armed with Bills or Piked staves and other meete weapons for the apprehendinge of all vagrant and suspicious persons whatsoever, This order to continue in force untill Ascension Day next unles it shalbee in the meane tyme otherwise ordered by this Court, and to bee published in every parish Church within this County betwixt prayer and sermon tyme by the minister of every such parishe the next Lords day after receipt thereof, for which purpose a Coppy of this Order is to bee sent to each Justice of the Peace in their respective divisions to see the same to bee published and putt in execution.

18. Whereas by the Statute de Anno 43<sup>o</sup>: Elizabeth for the reliefe of the Poore It is declared and ordered that yf it happen anie parish to extend itselfe into more Counties then one or parte to lye within the Liberties of anie City place or Towne

Corporate and parte without then aswell the Justices of peace of every County as alsoe the head officers of every such City place or Towne Corporate shall deale and intermeddle onely with soe much of the said parishe as lyeth within their Liberties and not anie farther, and every of them respectively within their severall lymitts wards and Jurisdiccions to execute the Ordinaunce in the said Statute mentioned concerninge the nomination of Overseers, the consent of bindinge apprentices, the giveinge of warrant to levy taxations unpaid, the takinge of Accompt of Churchwardens and Overseers, and comittinge to the Prison such as refuse to account or deny to pay the arrerages due on their accompts, and yett nevertheless the said Churchwardens and Overseers or the most parte of them of the said parishes as doe extend into such severall lymitts and Jurisdiccions should without dividing themselves duly execute their offices in all places within the said parishe in all things to them belonginge and should duely exhibite and make one accompt before the head officer of the Towne or place Corporate and one other before the said Justices of the peace or anie twoe of them ; And whereas it appeareth to this Court that the parishe of St. Cuthberts of Wells doe lye parte within the Liberty of the City or Burrough of Wells and parte without, And that the Justices of Peace without the said Liberty have and doe nominate Overseers of the poore accordinge to the said Statute And the Mayor and Justices within the said Liberties of the said City or Burrough of Wells have and doe nominate likewise overseers of the Poore within the said liberties And for that this Court is now informed that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the said out parishe doe refuse to joyne in makinge of taxations and to act and performe such other things as are mentioned in the said statute soe that by reason thereof the poore of the said City and parishe are growne into greate distresse and misery, This Court doth thinke fitt and desire that the twoe next Justices of the peace of this County (who are not concerned therein) wilbee pleased fully to examine the premisses and the difference betweene the said Liberties and the out parishes and to settle it yf they may, or otherwise to certify their opinions and what they find therein att the next Sessions, that such order may bee taken therein as the lawe in such cases require.

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT WELLS in the County aforesaid the Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh days of January in the year of our Lord One thousand six hundred and forty nine [1649-1650] before William Ceely, Richard Jones, Robert Morgan, John Cary of Castle Cary, and John Gorges, Esquires.

1. Forasmuch as Complaint hath beene made unto this Court by John Baylie, John Davis and William Murford Constables of the Hundred of Bath Forum and Liberty of Hampton and Claverton That the severall Tithings of Weston, Swanswick, Easton and Katherine, Witcombe, Freshford and Bathweeke are behind in collectinge and payinge in their Hospitall and maymed souldiers moneys which as the said Constables doe affirme is occasioned principally for want of Churchwardens principally in severall parishes within the same Tithings and through the neglect of the Churchwardens of other of the said parishes; John Hippesley John Buckland and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> or any two of them to take course that there be Churchwardens forthwith constituted and made in such parishes where there is a want of them, and likewise to see that both such as shall be made and those already in office shall perform their office in collecting and paying over their hospital and maymed souldier money.

2. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by Thomas Baker of Gregorystoake that there beinge Tenn severall parishes charged towards the reparations of an ancient Bridge called Stanmore Bridge lyinge within the said parishe of Gregorystoake (viz.) the parishes of Aller, Langport, Highham, Hewishe, Drayton, Curry Reeve, West Hatch, Gregorystoake, North Curry and Taunton, by John Pyne, Marmaduke Jennings John Newton and Benjamyn Pitt Esq<sup>rs</sup>; some of the same parishes have neglected to pay the severall somes of money on them ymposed; —The said four justices to examine the truth of the Complaint and to cause all arrears to be forthwith levied by distress upon the parties so neglecting.



3. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by some of the parishioners of Staunton Prior in the presence of some of the parishioners of Inglishcombe that one Jeremy Wyatt had refused to obey the order of this Court made att Bridgewater Sessions last touchinge the providinge for one Edward Allen a poore man in contempt of Court;

This Court doth therefore Comitt the said Jeremy Wyatt for such his contempt to the Comon Goale there to remaine untill hee find sureties for his good abearinge and to appeare att the next generall Sessions of the peace, Att which tyme the difference twixt Ingliscombe Staunton Prior and Witcombe touchinge the settlement of the said Allen is to bee reheard yf Inglishcombe shall then desire it.

4. Uppon the instaunce of John Buckland Esq<sup>r</sup> late Sherriff of this County, this Court doth nominate and appointe John Hipplesley, Richard Jones, Thomas Latch and Robert Morgan Esq<sup>rs</sup> or anie twoe of them, one of the twoe beinge of the Quorum, to view and oversee the Estreats of the County Court.

5. Uppon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of Brushford in this County thereby shewing that the Stoneworke of the west end of Exbridge in Brushford aforesaid is very ruinous and in decay and consequently very dangerous for travellers to passe over with themselves horses and carriages and as they affirme is reputed a County Bridge and hath used to have beene repaired att the chardge of the whole County; The four next justices of the Peace to the said Bridge will call all such parties before them as shalbee requisite and make due Inquisition whether the same Bridge bee a County Bridge or not and to certify unto this Court what they find touchinge the same.

6. George Thorne of the parishe of Enmore upon petition attested by the Minister Churchwardens Overseers of the Poore and severall of the Cheifest of the Inhabitants of the said parish, to have liberty to builde a Cottage within the wast of John Mallett Esq<sup>r</sup> lyinge in the same parishe; Soe as hee shall before the next Generall Sessions procure leave under the hands



and seales of the Trustees of the said John Mallett concerned in the premisses (hee beinge now in Minority) for the doeing thereof.

7. Uppon readinge the petition of Andrew Martyn thereby sheweinge that hee beinge fowerscore and seaven yeares of age is now livinge in greate want and poverty and inhabitinge in a poore Cottage which most are of opinion standeth parte in Spaxton, parte in Bromefield and parte in Enmore, is not by reason of his poverty taken to bee a parishioner in anie of the said parishes whereby hee is like to perishe for want of releife this Court doth order that the said Martyn bee from hencefourth deemed and taken to bee a parishioner of the parish of Enmore and as there settled untill the next generall Sessions of the Peace and from thenceforwards untill Enmore on notice hereof shall show good cause to the contrary.

8. Whereas the Bridge called Ivybridge lyinge betweene the severall parishes of Combhay, Dunckerton and Wellowe is in much decay for want of reparation to the greate danger of all people passinge over the same bridge and as this Court is informed is a County bridge and ought to bee repaired att the chardges of the County. This Court doth therefore referr the examination hereof unto the four next Justices of the peace to the said Bridge.

9. Uppon the Petition of William Acourt of Froome in this County whereby hee desireth licence to malt and uppon hearinge of severall of the Inhabitants of Froome aforesaid touchinge the conversation and condition of the said William Acourt This doth thinke fitt to licence the said William Acourt to convert Barly into malt till the next generall Sessions of the peace, anie former Order or Restriction notwithstanding Provided hee buy noe barley to convert into malt in aine of the Markett Townes of this County nor wett above three Quarters of barley a weeke nor sell anie malt other then in open Markett; And provided further that the said William Acourt doe att this present Sessions enter into Recognizaunce to observe the said precedent proviso or Condition And also this Court doth desire John Cary of Castle

Cary Esqr betweene this and the said next generall Sessions to call such persons before them as to him shall seeme requisite and to make due Inquisition whether it bee convenient further to licence the said William Acourt to converte barly into mault or not and to certify what hee findeth herein att the next generall Sessions.

10. Order ratifying and confirming an order made at Wells Sessions 23<sup>o</sup> Car. Regis for an Assessment made of several parishes and places towards the relief of certen infected people of Rode and uppon complaint that due observaunce hath not beene yielded thereunto.

11. The examination of the difference between Richard Widlake otherwise Brayly of Stokepero and one Robert Milton his father-in-law referred to George Lutterell and Charles Staynings Esqrs to end the same or else to certify att the next Generall Sessions how they find the same.

12. An Order upon the petition of John Eaton of West Cranmore the grandfather, respecting an order made for the keeping of a child above two years since att a private Sessions at Shepton Mallett but the said order was never given out by the said Justices under their hands.

13. Uppon readinge of the petition of the poore people livinge within the parishe of Evercreech thereby shewing that George Joyce gent deceased did by his will Dat. 22<sup>o</sup> Feb. 16<sup>o</sup> Car Regis give to the petitioners 100 *li.* to continue as a stock for ever and bee paid within seaven years next after his decease and bee putt out att interest after the rate of eight pounds p. cent. p. ann., and his executor to pay interest for the same from and after his decease, and made Symon Court gent his executor who proved the same will and paid interest for the said 100 *li.* for twoe yeares and then dyed Intestate, after whose death Elizabeth his wife tooke Administration of his goods and is since married with one Jeffery Strowde Gent which hath the estate But the said 100 *li.* and the interest thereof for theis six yeares is wholly behind wherby the poore are much damaged ; The examination of the matter of the said petition referred to the two next justices of the

peace to Evercreech to make such order therein as they shall see fit, or certify unto this Court at the next general Sessions what they find touching the same.

14. Uppon readinge the Petition of George Alexander of Baltonsborough thereby shewing that hee beinge a poore man and putt into the possession of a howse of the parishe by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the said parishe accordinge to an order of Taunton Sessions last, there is come into the same howse one Thomas Boole a man of ableness both in money and strength of body who with his wife and one child by violence keepe the possession thereof without anie lawfull power in this behalfe; the examination of the said petition referred to the two next justices of the peace next adjoining to Baltonsborough to bind the said Boole over to the next General Sessions, which said Justices are also desired by this Court to take into Consideration an order made at Bridgewater Sessions last past touching the said premises.

15. George Addams of Bedminster in the County of Somersett vintner Constable of the Hundred of Bedminster and Hartcliffe sworne and examined informeth and saith, That one Lewes Ricketts a Frenchman heretofore dwellinge att Bedminster did about a yeare since sell wyne in his dwellinge howse att Bedminster aforesaid, and beinge Indicted for sellinge wyne without licence hath absented himselfe for diverse monethes now last past, and is gonn into Fraunce as Mary his wife affirmeth. And hee further maketh oath that the said Mary yett dwelleth att Bedminster aforesaid in the same howse and there selleth wyne by retaile and frequently entertaineth manie loose and disorderly people In particulerly did on the fowerth Day of November now last past beinge the Sabboth Day keepe disorderly and lewd company in the same howse for the most parte of the same day and the night followinge.

16. Uppon readinge of a Certificate under the hands of John Aishe and Benjamyn Pitt Esq<sup>rs</sup> whereby it appeareth that accordinge to the Statute in this behalfe they had taken into consideracon a complaint made by the parishe of Charterhowse-

henton within the Hundred of Wellowe that the said parishe were unable to relieve their poore and therefore desired assistance from some other parishes *viz.* Newton St. Lowe Corston and Inglishcombe within the same Hundred. It is therefore desired and ordered that the three next Justices of the peace to Charterhowschenton aforesaid or anie twoe of them not concerned in the premisses doe take as well the said Certificate as the states and Conditions of all the said parishes into consideration and compose and settle the busines yf they cann, otherwise to certify how they find the same att the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this Connty.

17. Uppon readinge an order of Wells Sessions last whereby there was ordered to the feoffees of the Almeshowse of Froome Zellwood the some of Eight pounds in full of certen arreres due to them to bee paid by the Treasurers of the Hospitalls out of the Hospitall money of the County which Eight pounds is yett unpaid; and for that it appeareth unto this Court that the whole hundred of Froome for the most parte is much in arrere in the payment of their Hospitall money and that the same yett remayneth uncollected; The Constables of the said Hundred of Froome calling to their assistance the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the several parishes within the same Hundred doe levy the same arreres of the Hospital money by distress and sale of the goods and pay to the feoffees £8 and £4 more since incurred.

18. A child born in the parish of Middlezoy whose mother had been sent to the House of Correction to be maintained by its grandfather John Kerle "beinge a man of eightene pounds p. ann. in estate."

19. Anne Perry a covenant servant for one whole year which had not expired with George Knight of the parish of Weston turned out of service by her master "whereby shee hath been inforced to come to Middlezoy" settled at Weston until the next General Sessions.

20. Uppon hearinge of the severall parishes of Portbury and Clevedon touchinge a settlement of one Maudelin Patch who

was borne at Portbury and is now residinge att Clevedon This Court doth see noe cause to remove the said Maudlin from Clevedon but doth conceive her to bee settled there.

21. Alice Prior to be settled at Stogursey where she is now resident "att her ffather's howse" until the next General Sessions.

22. Mary Hipbesley and her child to be settled at Child-compton "Soe as security be given by the said Mary accordinge to her said tender."

23. Uppon complaint made unto this Court by one Joshua Godfrey of Montague freemason that there is muche money due to him for worke about fower Bridges of this County in the westernne division viz. Ivelchester Bridge, Mudford Bridge, Petherton Bridge, and Load Bridge; And for that Mr. Smith Treasurer of the Bridges in the said westernne division is att present unfurnished with money to pay and dischargde the same; It is therefore ordered that Mr. Tucker of Shepton Treasurer of the Bridges within the easternne division of this County doe forthwith pay unto the said Mr. Smith Treasurer for the westernne Division as aforesaid the some of fortie pounds which the said Mr. Smith is to yssue out to the said Godfrey towards his satisfaction for the said moneyes due to him.

24. For that it appeareth to this Court that it is convenient that the Keeper of the Goale of this County for the tyme beinge bee likewise Keeper of the howse of Correction in regard of the proximity of the said howses—Richard Browne gent. (the present Keeper of the said goale) is made and ordained "Keeper of the howse of Correction att Ivelchest<sup>r</sup> To hould and enjoy the same office and all fees moneyes and profitts as have beene used to bee paid by the Treasurers of the Hospitalls to the Keeper of the howse of Correction for the tyme beinge to him the said Richard Browne duringe the present yeare in case hee shall soe longe continue Keeper of the said Goale and behaue himselfe honestly as a Keeper of the said howse of Correction.

25. Upon Complaint made unto this Court for and on the behalfe of one Florence Foster (who was borne att the Mannor



howse of Charterhousehenton uppon Mendipp (The Owners of which Mannor howse haue allwaies Parished att Blagdon untill the tyme of Clement Walker Esq<sup>r</sup> the present Owner thereof and paid theire rates towards the releife of the poore of the parishe of Blagdon) shee the said Florence and her twoe Children beinge in greate distresse att present, the said Florence beinge att least sixty yeares of age and consequently unable to labour for her livinge and the said parishe of Blagdon refuseinge to releife them because as they pretend Charterhowse where shee was borne is out of theire parishe and uppon that accompt the said Mr. Walker hath refused to contribute towards the releife of theire poore; The two next Justices of the peace to Charterhowse aforesaid unconcerned in the premises &c. to determine the same in all points yf they cann or otherwise to certify how they find the same to stand att the next General Sessions.

26. Whereas by order of the last Sessions the difference betweene the Liberty of the City or Burrough of Wells and the out parishe of St. Cuthberts in Wells concerninge theire not joyninge together in theire rates for the releife of the poore accordinge to the Statute was referred to the examination of the twoe next Justices of the peace, and whereas there hath not beene anie meetinge or examination taken by anie Justices on that behalfe; Now uppon hearinge the said difference att the instance of both parties beinge present It is ordered that both the said Liberty of the said Citie or Burrough and the said Out parishe there (beinge both one parishe) shall joyne for the tyme to come in makinge of theire rates for reliefe of the poore of the said parishe of St. Cutberts in Wells accordinge to the Statute in that behalfe and to act and performe all other things required in the said Statute untill the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County and from thenceforwards unles good cause shalbee then shewed to this Court to the Contrary.

27. Uppon readinge the order of Taunton Sessions last touchinge the difference twixt severall Inhabitants of Wooton and Pilton about the payment of money towards the reparations of the Church of Pilton and the Certificate of John Hipplesley

and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup>, Wootton ordered on sight of this order to pay the Churchwardens of Pilton all arreses of the five shillings and fower pence yearly payable by Wootton to Pilton And continue payment of the said five and fower pence per annum towards the reparations of the said Church of Pilton unles they shall att the next generall Sessions of the Peace &c. shew good cause to the Contrary.

28. Forasmuch as it is made appeare unto this Court that one Frauncis Gullocke of Midsomer Norton hath broken and disobeyed the restraint made by this Court touchinge the excessive wettinge and convertinge barley into malt for which by the said order hee standeth actually suppressed from maultinge ; The said Gullocke to be actually suppressed from converting any barley into malt.

29. Uppon hearinge the matter in dispute twixt the severall parishes of Yatton and Weston in this County touchinge the settlement of one Davis a poore lame man who was borne at Yatton and since lived with one Mr. Percivall att Weston as a covenannt servant for the space of Three yeares and afterwards became a souldier in the late King's Army duringe which tyme hee became maymed and then retourned to Yatton and there remayned for the space of Tenn weekes and uppwards in the condition of a Sojourner, This Court doth therefore order and declare that unlesse the said parishe of Yatton shall make it appeare att the next generall Sessions of the peace that the last beinge and remayninge of the said Davis att Yatton as aforesaid was disturbed within the space of six weekes after hee last came thither, That then the said Davis is to continue and stand settled att Yatton (where now hee is) and there to bee provided for accordingly.

30. A warrant for the apprehension of Richard Higgens of Tickenham, Bayliffe of the Hundred of Portbury for not attending this Court Addressed to the Constables of the Hundred of Portbury.

31. A warrant for the apprehension of Abraham Phelps of North Petherton Yeoman and John Crocombe of the same Yeoman for not appearing when summoned by the Sheriff or his Deputy at this Court to give evidence against Thomas Preist and divers other persons of the said parish for selling ale without licence.

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GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD PUBLICLY [PUBLIC TENT] AT IVELCHESTER in the County aforesaid the twenty third, the twenty fourth and twenty fifth days of April in the year of the Lord One thousand six hundred and fifty before John Pyne, William Ceely, John Buckland, Edward Ceely, John Cary of Castle Cary, Robert Morgan, John Gorges, Thomas Siderfyn and Giles Strangewaies, Esquires, Justices for preserving the peace in the county aforesaid.

1. Thomas Patten Giles Hodges and John Lane being severally indicted for several trespasses and such like misdemeanors, respited until the next General Sessions to be held at Taunton.

2. Warrant for the apprehension of John Hancocke of the Town of Ivelchester Tapster for a batterie and bloodshedd by him donn and committed uppon and to Thomas Crosse and Margaret Morris.

3. Uppon readinge the Petition of Joseph Dyer Constable of the hundred of Milverton whereby he desireth a Rate on the Tithinge of Milverton for moneyes levied on the Petitioners as yssues forfected att the general Sessions for the defects of severall highwaies within the said Tithinge. It appearinge by a receipt of the Greene wax gatherer of this Countie that fortie shillings and Eight pence had beene levied on the said Petitioner; the Constables together with the churchwardens and overseers of the poore of Milverton forth with to ympose the said forty shillings and eight pence by an equal and proportionable rate on the Tithing of Milverton. [S.R., 82, i, 5.]

4. Uppon readinge of an order of Wells Sessions in the fifteenth yeere of the Raigne of Kinge Charles late Kinge of England made betweene Evell (Yeovil) and Vagg (a hamlett within the parish of Evell) touching repayringe of severall highwaies and raisinge of stones to doe the same and uppon Complaint made by and on behalfe of Vagg that severall persons in Evell neglect and others refuse to drawe stones for the amendment of highwaies accordinge as by the said former order they ought to do.

Ratification of the said former order as to the drawing of stones, and the next Justice of the Peace on complaint to bind any defaulter to the next general Sessions.

5. Forasmuch as it doth appeare unto this Court that the bearer Jane Sullevaine was heretofore by the Irishe Rebels driven out of Ireland where shee was borne and lived for fortie yeares together and hath sithence donn good offices here in England in discoveringe of Irishe Papists who under the pretence of being Irishe Protestants had deluded the People by Counterfeit passes (uppon some of whome punishment hath beene inflicted accordinge to lawe), And whereas the said Jane Sullevaine havinge beene for about the space of three yeares resident att Somerton hath now desired the leave and countenance of this Court for herselfe and her three children to passe to Plymouth whence shee intends to take shippinge for Ireland which is hereby graunted unto her; and all Justices of the Peace Mayors and Bayliffes Constables Tithingmen and other officers whatsoever are desired to permitt and suffer the said Jane Sullevaine with her said three children freely to passe from Somerton aforesaid to Plymouth aforesaid and soe to Ireland they behavinge themselves soberly and honestly in their travells to Plymouth aforesaid and takinge not above three weekes tyme to travell thither.

6. Petition of Edward Mills of the Towne of Crewkerne attested by the Minister Constables Churchwardens and other Inhabitants of Crewkerne aforesaid shewing that about twoe yeares and halfe since hee bound himselfe apprentice with one Richard Seaward of Crewkerne aforesaid Sadler for seaven yeers, since which time the said Seaward is discovered to bee incapable



of keepinge upp his trade by reason of his poverty and besides to bee a man of an uncivill carriage and conversation for the most parte travellinge upp and downe the Countrey begginge, and alsoe sendinge his children to begg, and further shewinge that the said Seaward hath not kept the Petitioner as hee ought to have donn And beinge ordered by Mr. Preston one of the Justices of the Peace of this Countie who hath heretofore examined this matter to appeare att this Sessions to answeere the premises hath neglected soe to do, for all which causes the Petitioner desired to bee discharged of the said apprentishood to thend hee may bee att liberty to endeavour the gettinge of his trade elsewhere, which this Court houldeth just and reasonable, and doth discharge the said Edward Mills from his said apprentishood and from further servinge the said Richard Seaward as his servant or apprentice, anie bindinge of the said Edward Mills apprentice to the said Seaward to the contrary notwithstandinge.

7. Uppon reading the petition of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Mudford in this Countie thereby shewinge that whereas there are diverse lands within the said parishe of the yeerely vallew of 500*li* which doe not service nor contribute towards the reparations of the Highwaies whereby the rest of the said parishe are very much burthened and the Highwaies in great decay ; this Court doth referr the matter of the said Petition unto the twoe next Justices of the Peace to Mudford who are desired to call all parties before them concerned herein and to determine of the same business by way of mediation if they cann, or otherwise to certifie unto this Court how they find the same att the next generall Sessions of the Peace.

8. Uppon complaint made to this Court by William Carsewell Constable of the Hundred of Kingsbury west that hee hath continued Constable and executed the same office for the space of fower yeares now last past, and uppon his said Carsewells affirmation that the Constable hath beene for theis latter tymes sworne of this Court uppon a presentment made of a meete person for this office by the Constable for the tyme beinge ; Two next Justices of the peace uppon addresse to them made by the said



Carsewell to examine the trueth of the said practice and to sweare an able Constable for the said Hundred in the place of the said Carsewell yf they see cause.

9. The difference between the parishes of Weare and Badgeworth touching the settlement of one Mary Griffith referred to the two next justices of the peace to the same places to certify how they find the same at the next general Sessions.

10. The *3li. 6s. 8d.* which had been anciently paid unto the two hospitals in the town of Glaston every Quarter Sessions being a great while in arrear and touching the same arrears an order had been made at Bridgwater Sessions last, to be referred to the two next justices to certify the truth thereof to the next General Sessions to be finally determined.

11. William Hooper being now presented to be sworn as one of the Constables of the Hundred of Tintenhull for the yeare following by the jury now sworn, and upon complaint by the jury being made that there was yet another constable wanted in the place of William Hopkins one of the present constables and the Leete incident to the Hundred having for some time discontinued the election, the two next justices were desired to swear some meete able person in the place of Hopkins. [*S.R.*, 82, i, 3, 4, John Priddle, sen., was presented.]

12. Upon readinge of an order of Bridgewater Sessions last made on behalfe of John Reeves Governor of the Hospitall of St. Margaretts of the parishe of West Mouncton touchinge arrears therein expressed to be due unto him ; Referred to Edward Ceely and John Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup> to examine the truth of the particulars of the said arrears.

13. The complaint of Henry Gander of South Cadbury that hee is putt out of his office of Bayliewicke of the Hundred of Stone and Catsaishe (into which office hee was placed by order of the Committee of this Countie) by Mr. George Starr Lord of the said Hundred and one John Mogg placed in his room ; Mogg ordered to forbear further to execute the office until the Taunton Sessions next and from thenceforth unless good cause be then

shewed, sufficient to induce this Court to admit him to the said office and in the meane tyme the said office to be executed by the said Gander as before.

14. Uppon the humble desire of George Webb Governour of the howse of Correction att Shepton Mallett to have his yeerly allowaunce increased in respect of the deerenes of the tymes and greatnes of his chardge, it was ordered that two pounds per annum be yearly added to the yearly allowance of the said George Webb Governor as aforesaid.

15. A warrant issued upon complaint by several well affected persons inhabitants of the Towne of Glaston that there are many howses in that Towne wherein are unlawfull games used and frequented contrary to the statutes for the suppression of all such houses and unlawful games.

16. John Elliott a poore maymed souldier to have his pension advanced to five pounds per annum as formerly.

17. The order made at Wells Sessions last between the Liberty of the City or Burrough of Wells and the Out parish of St. Cuthberts for their joining together in rating and in other things to be suspended for a final hearing until the Wells Sessions next.

18. Inglishcombe having performed the order made at Bridgwater Sessions last Edward Allen to be settled at Witcombe until the next General Sessions, and from thenceforwards until Witcombe shall show good cause to the contrary.

19. Davis a poore lame man who was born at Yatton and since lived at Weston with one Mr. Percivall at Weston as a covenant servant for the space of three years and afterwards became a soldier in the late King's Army, to be settled at Weston his sojourn for the space of ten weeks upwards at Yatton having been disturbed within the space of six weeks.

20. Petition of Richard Hardinge, Minister of Midsomer Norton complayninge of severall abuses don unto him by

Frauncis Gullocke of the same parish And further that the Petitioner haveing formerly obteyned a warrant of the Peace against the said Gullocke, hee, the said Gullocke, is not to bee found which causes the Petitioner still to stand in fear of him, This Court doth referr this matter unto the next Justice of the Peace to Midsomer to end the busines by mediation yf hee cann or otherwise if hee see cause to committ the said Gullocke to Prison untill he shall become bound with suerties to appeare att the next generall Sessions to answeere the premisses, and in the meane tyme to behave himselfe well towards the Keepers of Libertie of England by authority of Parliament and all other people of England. [S.R., 82, i, 7.]

21. Edmond Wilkins of West Harptry having been bound by Recognizance taken before two justices of the peace to answer at this Sessions for being the reputed father of a base child and the mother having since run away, This Court doth referr this busines back to the same Justices to reexamine the same and to alter theire former order yf they shall see cause, and further to doe herein accordinge as the matter shall require.

22. Uppon readinge ths petition of Richard Hardinge minister of Midsomer Norton thereby sheweinge that whereas by an order of Wells Sessions last Frauncis Gullocke of Midsomer Norton aforesaid was by this Court actually suppressed from thencefourth from convertinge anie more barley into malt notwithstandinge which suppression the said Gullocke hath continued and doth continue maltinge and convertinge barley into malt and utter the same to unlicensed Alehowses; Referred unto the Justices of the Peace in theire next private Sessions in their division to deale with the said Gullocke herein. [S.R., 82, i, 1.]

23. Alice Kendon to remain at Street until the next general Sessions, and then to be removed to Puriton there to stand and remain settled unless Puriton having notice of this order shall show good cause to the contrary.

24. The matter in dispute between the parishes of Yatton and Puxton touching the settlement of one Christian Griffith

who it was alleged lived at Puxton with one Mr. Whitby as a Covenant servant for the space of eight weeks and thence removed to Yatton where now she is, and was there delivered of the said child, referred for examination to the two next Justices of the Peace to the said parishes.

25. Forasmuch as it appeareth unto this Court that Johane Morley widow, Ellenor villers widow daughter of the said Johane with Mary villers daughter unto the said Ellianor have beene apprehended and taken wandringe and begginge with a Counterfeit passe as Rogues and vagabonds beinge persons that in June last came out of Ireland where before that tyme they allwaies lived; This Court doth certify and make knowne that the said Johane Ellenor and Mary have beene punished here att Ivelchester by whippinge accordinge to the statute in this behalfe and doth order and require that they bee forthwith sent the next way from parishe to parishe by the officers of each parishe to the Porte of Milford Haven in the Countie of Pembrock the place of their landinge and from thence bee trausported to Ireland with the first conveniency; the said persons are allowed [Blank] and noe more for such their travell.

#### ORDERS FOR BASEBORN CHILDREN.

(1) An order made this 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1650 for the discharge of the parish of Kingston concerning the relief of a George a base child. (S.R., 82, i, 18.]

(2) An order made the 20th of April 1650 concerning the maintenance and keeping of Johane a base child born in the parish of Stogursey.

The Accompt of Thomas Latch Esqr for the yeere 1649 for the maymed souldiers of the said Countie as followeth.

Alsoe the now Treasurer's particuler disbursements to sicke and maymed souldiers which dayly come out of Ireland to passe this Countie cannott yett in his absence well bee perfected the particulers of both shalbee given in [about eighty-three old pensioners' and soldiers' names given].

This Court desired the grand Jury to present their opinions what wages they thought fitt to be sett and assessed for labourers for this year respect beinge had to the present tymes, who made a presentment in their words viz. :

The Presentment of the grand Inquest att the Quarter Sessions held at Ivelchester the 23<sup>th</sup> [*sic*] of Aprill 1650.

Hay Harvest—

Menservants by the yeare ... ..	04-00-00
Maidservants by the yeare ... ..	02-00-00
To a mower of grasse to taske p diem ...	00-01-04
To man for nowinge att Meate & Drinke...	00-00-08
To a man for makinge of hay findinge himselfe ... ..	00-01-00
To a woman findinge herselfe ... ..	00-00-08
To a man havinge meate & Drinke ...	00-00-06
To a woman havinge meate & drinke ...	00-00-04

Corne Harvest—

To a man findinge himselfe p Diem ...	00-01-02
To a woman att meate & Drinke ...	00-00-06
To a man att meate & Drinke ...	00-00-08
To a woman findinge herselfe ..	00-01-00

It is ordered att this Sessions that the rates for wages abouemenconed bee in force in this Countie untill further order, the said Rates for such as find themselves are raised in regard of the greate price of all sortes of provision att this present.

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GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIC PEACE HELD AT TAUNTON the Tuesday next after the feast of the translation of Saint Thomas the Martyr, namely the ninth day of July Anno Domini One thousand six hundred and fifty, before John Pyne, William Ceelie, Thomas Siderfyn, John Gorges, John Turberville, Thomas Latch, John Cary of Castle Cary, Thomas Gorges, Edward Ceelie and Robert Morgan, Esquires.



1. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court that one John Knight beinge by order of a private Sessions held in the western division of this county sent as a vagrant to Stogumber the place of his birth there to remaine settled accordinge to lawe and that the same settlement hath been disturbed by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poore of Stogumber aforesaid This Court doth declare the said Knight to bee and stand settled at Stogumber aforesaid and order that hee be permitted to remaine there accordingly; And in case anie person shall hereafter disturbe the same settlement hee must expect to have the penalty of the statute in this behalfe inflicted against him.

2. Uppon readinge the petition of Thomas Parker of West Hatch on the behalfe of Thomas Parker his sonn bound apprentice unto Richard Collier for the terme of nyne yeares thereby complayninge of greate abuses donn to the said apprentice by the said Richard Collier his master and uppon hearinge the said Collier the said Complaint appearinge to bee true and the abuses such as satisfie this Court to bee sufficient grounds and causes to discharge the said apprentice from his said master This Court doth therefore by force of the Statute in such cases made and provided discharge the said Thomas Parker the apprentice from the service of the said Richard Collier his master, all indentures contracts or covenants to the contrary notwithstandinge.

Signed and sealed by	{	Thomas Siderfyn	} Esq <sup>rs</sup> ,
		John Turbervile	
		Thomas Gorges	
		John Gorges	
			Justices, &c.

3. Forasmuch as complaint hath beene made unto this Court by Peter White and John Chepman Inhabitants of the hundred of Carhampton that John Light appointed by the Sherriffe to leve such moneyes as come into his chardge under greenewax hath of late levied tenn pounds three shillings and six pence uppon the same hundred by distresse which the said persons suppose to bee accasioned by the nonrepaire of the Bridges of this Countie and therefore would have the same reimbursed to them by a rate uppon the Countie, this Court in

order to redresse herein doth require the said Light to attend att the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this Countie then to give an accompt to the Justices there what moneyes hath soe beene by him levied and for what cause, uppon which such further order shalbee made herein as shalbee fitt.

4. This Court doth declare that John Mogg then lately placed in the office of Bayliwicke of the hundred of Stone and Cataishe by Mr Starr is hereby deprived of the same, and the said Office is from henceforth to bee executed by Henry Gander as before, the said Mogg not having taken the Engagement appointed by Act of Parliament to bee taken and subscribed untill since the Twentieth Day of March now last past.

5. An order ratifying and confirming an order made by John Turberville and Thomas Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup>. by consent of the said parties whereby Robert Farthinge was to take a child from the parish of Cheddon and bind him out apprentice and continue the payment of eight pence per week ordered by an Order made at Taunton Sessions until the child shall be so bound.

6. Uppon readinge the petition of John Gubb Tithingman of Woollavington, whereby it appeareth that hee hath laid out five pounds thirteene shillings and fower pence for Conveyinge fellows to the Common Goale which hee prayeth to have allowed and paid unto him by a rate to bee ymposed on the said Tithinge. This Court houldeth the request reasonable and doth order the same accordingly.

7. Uppon readinge a certificate of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Winsham on the behalfe of one Thomas Billett of the same parishe By which certificate it appeareth that they hould him a meete person to bee licensed to keepe a Common Alehowse this Court doth referr the said Billett to attend the twoe next Justices of the Peace to Winsham who are desired to license him in this behalfe yf they shall conceive him a meete object for such an ymployment; and further this Court doth require all other persons keepinge Alehowses within the same parishe to shew cause att the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this Countie why they should not from thence-

fourth bee actually suppressed from keeping Common Ale-houses within the same ; Every of the same persons to have one monethes notice att the least given them of this Order by the Tithingman of Winsham aforesaid.

8. Uppon complaint made unto this Court by Richard West Tithingman of Spaxton that hee had disbursed Eighteene shillings and six pence for the said Tithinge in repayringe of the stocks there carryinge prisoners to Justices of the Peace and otherwise which the said Tithinge refused to allowe and pay unto him : fiteene shillings and sixpence of the same Eighteene shillings and sixpence bee rayسد on the said Tithinge by an equall and proportionable tithinge rate which the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the said parishe are to cause to bee donn and the said three shillings residue is not thought meete att all to be allowed to the said Tithingman.

9. It is ordered on the petition of Flower Richards widow late the wife of Humfry Richards who was slaine in the Parliaments service that there bee paid unto her by John Gorges Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for the maymed souldiers the some of Thirty shillings towards her releife and the said Treasurer is to bee allowed the same on his accompt ; And it is further ordered that the said Flower is not to have or expect anie further releife for the tyme to come from this Court or the Treasurer for maymed souldiers of this Countie.

10. Uppon readinge the Certificate of John Gorges and Edward Ceellie Esq<sup>rs</sup> whereby it appeareth that they find Twenty five pounds in arrere to John Reeves Governor of St. Margaretts Hospitall in the parishe of West Mounckton ; It is ordered that there bee att the present paid to the said Reeves five pounds towards satisfaction of the said Arreres by the Treasurer for the Hospitalls of the westerne division who is to bee allowed the same on his Accompt.

11. Uppon Consideration had of a petition concerninge the decay of the Bridewell of Taunton, It is ordered that there bee at present five pounds paid towards the reparations of the same

howse by John Turberville Esqr Treasurer for the Hospitalls of the Western Division.

12. The matter of the Petition of the Inhabitants of Hillfarrence concerninge abuses committed by Collectors and receivers is referred by this Court to the twoe next Justices of the Peace to Hillfarrence to heare and determine the same.

13. Twenty shillings to be paid to Elizabeth Lane widowe (whose husband lost his life in the Parliaments service).

14. Uppon the Certificate of the Towne of Glaston touchinge the Condition of one Thomas Marshe a maymed souldier, Twenty shillings to be paid towards his releife.

15. It is ordered on the Petition of William Yewens that the Overseers of the Poore of the parishe of Wellington pay unto the Petitioner nyne shillings arrere unto him for his service as Watchman duringe the tyme the said Towne was visited with sicknes.

16. The Petition of Johane Paule of Martock to have alloweaunce of money for the keepinge of a poore maide child on an agreement made with the Overseers of the said place; Referred to the two next Justices of the peace to Martocke finally to hear and determine the same.

17. Uppon readinge the petition of the parishioners of the parishe of Lincombe and Widcombe touchinge one John Day a decayed person in estate of the same parishe which said Day (as by the said petition is alleadged) about a fortnight before Christmas was last past bicame lunatique and doth yett soe continue whereby all persons cominge neere unto him are in danger of theire lives and his wife putt to greate care and chardge in that respect; It is therefore referred to the twoe next Justices of the Peace to the said parishe to have the view and sight of the said John Day soe supposed to bee lunatique and to consider whether there bee a necessity for the securinge of his person in that respect and yf they find such a necessity then to consider of some meete place (other then the howse of Correction)



to secure the person of the said John Day and in case the said Day hath not sufficient for his maintenance then to chardge the said parishe towards his releife in case it shalbee by the said Justices thought meete. And it is further ordered that William Gay brother in lawe of the said John Day doe attend the said Justices on all occasions touchinge the premisses.

18. Uppon Complaint unto this Court for and on the behalfe of the parish of St. Decumans that one John Norris Esq<sup>r</sup> who was rated to pay towards the releife of the Poore of the said parishe in respect of a Parsonage ympropriate and severall glebe lands (which hee held onely for his life there) is deceased much in arrere to the said Poores rate and the said Parsonage ympropriate and lands are by his death come to seuerall persons in fee, and the said parishe (as they alleadge) knowe not how to come by the said arreres of Poores money; This Court doth declare its opinion in this particuler that the said arreres ought to bee chardged and levied uppon the said persons cominge to the said Parsonage and lands in Reversion of the said John Norris for and in respect of the same Parsonage and lands.

19. This Court beinge informed that seuerall poore people of the Towne of Bridgwater uppon the fringe of the howses in West streete, North streete, and other streets of the said Towne by the Souldiery under the Commaund of Collonell Wyndham heretofore Governor there were sent to the parishe of Wembdon neere the same Towne there to bee provided for In which parishe the said poore persons have hitherto resided sometimes in one place thereof sometimes in another to the great oppression and chardge of the said parishe of Wembdon It is therefore ordered that the said poore people doe forthwith departe from Wembdon aforesaid to the said Towne of Bridgewater there to remaine as before, and that the said Inhabitants of the said Towne doe receive them or shew sufficient cause to the contrary att the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this Countie. And it is declared that the beinge of the said Poore people att Wembdon aforesaid untill the next Sessions in case they shall soe longe continue there shall not bee interpreted to bee a settlement of them there in case the continueaunce of them att



Wembdon untill this tyme doth not amounte in lawe to a ſettlemt.

20. Henry Webb of the pariſh of Pilton to provide for a child born in the ſaid pariſh until the next Sessions at Wells where it was to be finally determined whether the mother Mary Newman was married to one John Auſten before the birth of the ſaid child, and that the ſaid child was borne in lawfull matrimony. There are ſeueral persons att Pilton who cann ſpeake materially in the premisses and are not able to travell farr from home and in reſpectt Wells is ſomewhat neer to Pilton.

21. Uppon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of the pariſhe of Merryott thereby complaininge of the greate disorders and abuſes committed on the Lords Day and other Dayes in the howſe of one Robert Gough of Merryott under pretence of his havinge an Inne to the greate diſhonour of God and prophanation of the ſame Daies this Court doth therefore order that the ſaid Gough bee from hencefourth ſuppreſſed from ſellinge anie more ale or beere other then to Travellers and thoſe onely in an orderly way unles hee haveinge notice of this order ſhall ſhew good cauſe to the contrary att the next generall Sessions.

22. Uppon complaint made unto this Court by ſome of the pariſhoners of the pariſhe of Dunſter that there are ſeueral ſomes of money in arrere upon the rates for the Poore of the ſame pariſhe of Dunſter, and alſoe ſeueral other ſomes of money in arrere due and payeable towards the reparations of the Church of Dunſter ever ſince the yere 1641; The two next juſtices of the peace to Dunſter upon request to them made to iſſue out warrants for levyng of the ſaid arrears upon the ſaid rates for the poor by diſtreſſ and ſale of goods. And it is further ordered that all arrears of money incurred ſince the ſaid year 1641 to the Church of Dunſter aforesaid be forthwith collected and applied towards the reparations thereof wherein the ſaid Juſtices are alſo deſired to add their Countenance and aſſiſtance accordinge as the cauſe ſhall require.

23. Uppon hearinge the matter in dispute twixt the seuerall parishes of Chewstoake and Chew Magna in this Countie touchinge the Settlement of one Tankins his wife and three children who lived att Chewstoake for the space of twoe yeares and from thence removed to Chew Magna (where the said Tankens formerly lived for above twenty yeares) and there remayned for the space one moneth but (as is affirmed by Chew Magna) was seuerall tymes questioned and complayned of to Justices of the Peace and others; Ordered that unles the said parishe of Chew Magna shall make it appeare att the next generall Sessions that the last beinge and remayninge of the said Tankins his wife and Children att Chew Magna as aforesaid was tymely and legally disturbed that then the said Tankins his wife and children are to continue stand settled att Chew Magna (where now they are) and there to be provided for accordingly. And it is further ordered That in case tymely disturbaunce shall not appeare to have beene of the said Tankens his wife and children as aforesaid the said parishe of Chew Magna doe pay unto the parishe of Chewstoake all necessary chardges expended and to bee expended by them in and about the premisses.

24. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by some of the Inhabitants of the Hundred of North Petherton in this Countie that the stocks of the seuerall Tithings of the Western parte of the said Hundred (viz.) Of the Denizon, Buckland ffee, Woolmerston, Huntworth, West Newton, Tuckerton, Searston, Thurloxton, Durston, and Ham are much in decay for want of reparations and consequently become uselesse, This Court doth order that the Constables of the said Hundred of North Petherton doe before the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this Countie take speciall care to cause the respective Tithingmen of the seuerall Tithings by way of an equall rate on the same Tithings respectively to putt the same stocks in sufficient reparations and the Inhabitants of the said respective Tithings are hereby required to yeild obedience to such rates as shalbee made in this behalfe. And in case anie such Inhabitants shall faile soe to doe the next Justice of the Peace therevnto is desired on complaint in this behalfe to

bind such person to the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this Countie then and there to answeere for such fayler.

25. Forasmuch as it appeareth unto this Court that Abraham Ally Giles Bruaneere and Anthony Southwin have beene apprehended and taken travellinge and begginge without anie Certificate testifyinge their quallity or Condition beinge borne (as they say) in Roan in Fraunce and sett on shoare by an Ostend man of warr who boarded their Barke bound for Swanzey in Wales; This Court in regard the said persons are Aliens and were thus forced on shoare and necessitated to begg for their present sustenance doth not thinke fitt to inflict Corporall punishment on them yett by force of the statute in such cases made and provided doth order and require; that they bee forthwith sent the next way from parishe to parishe by the officers of each parishe to the Porte of Lyme in the Countie of Dorsett the place of their landinge and from thence bee transported to Roan aforesaid with the first conveniencie the said persons are allowed six daies and noe more for such their travell to Lyme.

To the Con<sup>bles</sup> of the Towne of Taunton and all other Con<sup>bles</sup> and other officers whome theis shall or may concerne.

26. Uppon hearinge the matter in dispute betwixt the parishes of Yatton and Puxton touchinge the settlement of Christian Griffith and her child, it appearinge that the said Griffith lived att Yatton as a Covenante servant for the space of one yeare and from thence removed to Puxton and there remayned undisturbed for the space of one moneth and afterwards retourned to Yatton and was there deliuered of her said child and there yett remayneth; The said Griffith and her child be removed from Yatton unto Puxton and there settled until the next General Sessions and from thence afterwards unless Puxton having notice of this order shall then show good cause to the contrary.

27. Uppon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Ubley in this Countie whereby they desire that the 12<sup>d</sup>. p. weeke heretofore imposed on them by this Court paye-

able to the parishe of Yarlington in this County towards the maintenance of one Mary Martyn may bee taken of [*sic*], they haveinge a great chardge of Poore of theire own to mainteyne and that the order requiringe the payment thereof may bee made null and void Which this Court doth thinke fitt and reasonable to bee donn and doth order the same accordingly unles Yarlington (haveinge notice of this Order) shall shew good cause to the contrary att the next Generall Sessions, &c.

1. An order made by Thomas Gorges and John Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 9th of July 1650 for the discharge of the parish of Hillfarrence and towards the necessary releife of Mary a base child.

2. An order made by John Pyne and Robert Morgan Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the maintenance of a child born in East Coker.—Dated the 12th day of July 1650.

3. An order made by John Cary and Robart Morgan Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the maintenance of a child born at Deane within the parishe or village of West Crenmore.—Dated the xiith day of July 1650.

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### BRIDGEWATER.

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIC PEACE HELD AT BRIDGEWATER in the County aforesaid the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, namely, the first day of October in the year of the Lord one thousand six hundred and fifty, before Henry Rolle, Chief Justice of the Upper Bench, John Pyne, William Ceely, John Buckland, Richard Jones, Thomas Siderfyn, John Turberville, Thomas Gorges, Thomas Latch, Alexander Pym, John Gorges, William Hilliard, Robert Morgan, Thomas Cox, and John Cary of Castle Cary, Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

1. The petition of Arthure Berryman of the parishe of St. Decumans thereby shewing that the now Churchwardens and Overseers of the said parish have putt John Herringe one of the Poore of the said parish apprentice a person not fitt to bee bound nor brought before anie the Justices of the Peace of this Countie

accordinge to the statute referred to the two next Justices of the Peace to St. Decuman's.

2. Uppon readinge the petition of Cassandra Birde of Cannington widow who haveinge beene a third tyme convicted for sellinge of ale without licence was accordinge to the statute in this behalfe committed to the howse of Correction att Taunton where shee hath remayned by the space of 6 monethes att the least; this Courtuppon the Submission of thesaid Cassandra and her promise to bee of the good behaviour for the tyme to come, doth thinke fitt to enlarge the said Bird from the said ymprisonment, and doth order and require the Keeper of the said howse of Correction att Taunton that forthwith on sight of this order hee sett att liberty the said Cassandra Birde, Anie Mittimus or former order to the contrary notwithstandinge.

3. Henry Webb of Shepton Mallett the reputed father of the base child of Johane Eaton of Deane having complained that he is surcharged towards the reliefe of the said base child by an order made by John Cary and Robert Morgan Esq<sup>rs</sup>; This Court doth desire the same Justices to reexamine the premisses and yf they see cause to ease the said Webb towards the releife of the said base child.

4. Forasmuch as it is evident unto this Court that James Robberts of Aishill in this Countie now a licensed tipler doth keepe disorders in his howse And that hee the said Robberts is a person of evill name and fame and that his howse doth stand in a by place out of anie rode It is declared by this Court that the said Robberts bee hencefourth suppressed from keepinge an alehowse; and the said Robberts is thereby actually suppressed and disabled to keepe anie Alehowse or tiplinge howse.

5. Whereas there is a certen Bridge called Ivybridge lyinge on a very greate roade way within the Hundred of Wellowe in this Countie is found to bee a Countie bridge and ought to be repaired att the Chardge of this Countie as often as occasion requireth. And whereas by a Certificate under the hands of diverse of the ablest inhabitants of the said Hundred it appears that the said



Bridge is greatly in decay and on view of some of the ablest workemen in this Countie the chardge for the repaire of the said Bridge will amount to the some of xxx*li*. at the least. This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that William Tucker Treasurer appointed for the Easterne division of this Countie for the receipt of moneyes for such uses shall pay and deliver unto Mr. Henry Fisher of Newton the some xxx*li*. who is hereby appointed to receive the same and to ymploy it for and towards the reparation of the aforesaid Bridge called Ivybridge ; And that Mr. Peter Rosewell of Englishcombe Thomas Skidmore the elder of Whittoxmead and John Tutt of Combehay are hereby appointed and required to bee Overseers of the same worke and that it bee forthwith sett on worke.

6. Uppon complaint made unto this Court by John Crocombe Bayliffe and Tithingman of the Denison within the parishe of North Petherton of seuerall chardges and disbursements in a note by him particularly sett forth for releife and passage of maymed souldiers in the yeares 1647, 1648 and 1649 ; and uppon the desire of the said Crocombe that the constables and churchwardens of North Petherton should make a Tithinge rate for levyinge of the same chardges and disbursements. This Court conceivinge the same requests reasonable doth referr the examination of the said note of chardges and disbursements to the twee next Justices of the Peace to North Petherton, and uppon full hearinge of the said matter to make such order therein for the releife of the said Crocombe as shalbee meete.

7. The parish of Yarlington not having shown any cause why the parish of Ubley should not be relieved from the payment of 12*d*. per week towards the maintenance of one Mary Martin, this Court doth therefore order that the said some of 12*d*. p. weeke payeable by Ubley as aforesaid bee wholly taken from the said parishe of Ubley and doth declare the order requiringe the payment thereof to bee null and void to all intents and purposes.

8. Seven pounds which had been levied on some of the inhabitants of the parish of Durlleigh by reason of a high way

that was formerly presented to be raised by an equal rate on the said parish.

9. Order ratifying and confirming the order made at Taunton Sessions last for collecting the Poor's rates and the rates made towards the reparation of the church of Dunster which had been in arrear ever since the year 1641.

10. The petition of the inhabitants of the Tithing of Ham that the said Tithing had been for some years now last past and now is overrated in all taxes and payments laid on the Hundred of North Petherton of which the said Tithing is a member, referred to the two next justices to mediate the busines yf they cann or else to certify at the next generall Sessions how they find the same.

11. Forasmuch as Complaint hath beene made unto this Court by Peter White and John Chepman inhabitants of the Hundred of Carhampton that John Light the Greene wax gatherer of this Countie hath of late levied Tenn pounds three shillings [ ] six pence uppon the same hundred by distresse which the said persons suppose to bee occasioned by the non repair of the Bridges of this Countie and therefore would have the same reimbursed to him [*sic*] by a Rate uppon the said Hundred; Order that an equal and proportionable rate be made on the said Hundred, The said John Light to attend the Justices at the next General Sessions there to give an accompt of the receipts of the said moneys from the said White and Chepman.

12. Whereas this Court is informed by the Petition of one Ralph Henvile of the Tithinge of Milverton that John Light the Greene wax gatherer of this Countie hath levied the some of fiftie shillings and eight pence on him which the said Henvile supposeth to be occasioned by the non reparaire of the Bridges of this Countie and therefore would have the same reimbursed to him by a rate uppon the said Tithinge; Order made similar to the preceding Order.

13. You are authorized and required on sight hereof to free and deliver out of your custody Agnes Facy widow for what soever cause shee is by you deteyned for which this shalbee your warrant. To the Keeper of the howse of Correction att Taunton greetinge.

14. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the Keeper of the goale of Ivelchester that the said goale is much gonn in decay and needeth a present reparation. This Court doth desire Mr. George Smith and Mr. Edmond Dawes both of Ivelchester aforesaid to view and see the defects of the said goale and forthwith to cause the same to bee repaired and give notice of the Chardges to bee expended in doeinge the same to John Cary Esqr Treasurer of the Hospitalls for the Easterne Division of this Countie who is hereby desired & authorized to disburse soe much money as shall serve to defray the same chardges.

15. An order made confirming an order made by John Pyne and John Gorges towards the relief and maintenance &c. of a child born in the parish of Wilton. [S.R., 82, i, 20.]

16. Uppon readinge the petition of Thomas Parker who was bound an apprentice to Richard Collier of Puckington Blacksmith thereby complayninge of the greate abuse donn to the said apprentice by the said Richard Collier his master, the said Complaint appearinge to bee true and the abuses such as satisfie the Court to bee sufficient grounds and causes to discharge the said apprentice from his said master ; This Court doth therefore by force of the statute in such cases made and provided discharge the said Thomas Parker the apprentice from the service of the said Richard Collier his Master, All indentures contracts or Covenants to the contrary notwithstanding ; and further the said Thomas Parker in regard hee is poore and not able either by his labour or otherwise to mainteyne himselfe is hereby specially recommended to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the parishe of Puckington by them to bee provided for as a poore ympotent person.

17. Whereas there is a difference betweene the parishes of Evell and Barwicke concerninge the settlement of one Ellianor Pitman now the wife of one Pitman. The two next justices to settle it yf they can and to certify what they shall doe at the next Sessions.

18. The matter in difference twixt the Inhabitants of the parishe of Wembdon and the Towne of Bridgewater concerninge the settlement of certen poore people sent out of the said Towne by the souldiery under the commaund of Collonell Wyndham late Governor of Bridgewater to bee provided for att Wembdon, and uppon readinge of an order of Taunton Sessions last whereby the Towne of Bridgewater was to shew cause why the said Poore should not bee returned back thither to reinhabite there and uppon hearinge the Towne of Bridgewater who alleadge that in regard the said poore have remayned undisturbed att Wembdon for the space of four yeares now last past and upwards they ought to stand and remayne settled there; The two next Justices to examine the seuerall cases and conditions of the said poore people and to certify the true state thereof at the next generall Sessions.

19. Complaint made by the inhabitants of the Tithinge of North Curry that there have beene seuerall yssues forfeited for non repaire of Highwaies levied of the goods of the said Inhabitants by Proces of Greenewax and other yssues by them forfeited for the cause aforesaid which are not yett estreated; And whereas oath hath beene made att this present Sessions that the same Highwaies occasioninge the forfeiture of the same yssues are sufficiently repaired; Order made for a general rate for reimbursement.

#### TRAVERSES.

Henricus Dibble de Michaells Burrowe for drinkinge a health to the sonn of the late Kinge by the name of Charles the second.

## WELLS.

GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIC PEACE HELD AT WELLS  
in the County aforesaid, the Seventh day of January in the  
year one thousand seven hundred and fifty (one), Before  
William Ceely, Richard Jones, Thomas Latch, Thomas Cox,  
John Cary of Castle Cary, and John Gorges, Esquires.

1. Uppon readinge of an order made att a Sessions held att  
Ivelchester in the Eighteenth yeare of the raigne of the late  
Kinge Charles (1642) subscribed by the then Justices whose  
names are undermentioned, which order is conteyned in theis  
words (viz.), Whereas it hath appeared unto this Court by a  
petition of the inhabitants of Pull (Pylle) concerninge the over  
ratinge of the said Inhabitants towards theire payments to the  
Hospitalls and maymed souldiers, And alsoe by the relation of  
Sr Henry Berkeley Knt. and William Walrond Esqr who were  
desired by the last Sessions to examine the same That the said  
inhabitants were over rated above a double proportion It is  
therefore att this present Sessions ordered that the one halfe of  
the said payments to the Hospitalls and maymed souldiers  
aforesaid shalbee abated and they onely to pay the moytie of  
what formerly they paid.

Edw. Phelips  
Tho. Lutterell  
Rich. Browne  
Thos. Preene

Fra. Dodington  
John Harrington  
William Walrond  
Rob. Harbine.

This Court doth now att the instaunce of the said Inhabitants  
of Pull thinke fitt to order And it is ordered that the order above  
specified and expressed in all points be observed until the next  
Generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this Countie and  
from thencefourth accordingly unles good cause shalbee then  
shewed to the contrary.

2. Uppon the petition of the inhabitants of the parishe of  
Yarlington settinge forth that by an order of Ilchester Sessions  
Anno Dni 1648 : the parishoners of Ubley were to paie unto the



parishoners of Yarlington xij<sup>d</sup> weekly towards the releife of one Mary Martyn a poore ympotent person, But the parishoners of Ubley (unknoweing to the petitioners petitioninge att Taunton Sessions last to bee released of the said payment yt was then thereuppon ordered accordingly unles the petitioners should uppon notice thereof shew cause to the contrary att the then next ensueinge Sessions; And for that the petitioners alsoe sett forth that they could not bee [ ] in their witnesses and otherwise to make their tymely [ ] and defence accordinge to the same order (their special witnesses beinge very aged and lame this Court hath now (by the consent of the said parishoners of Yarlington) ordered that reexamination of this busines bee referred unto John Buckland Esq<sup>r</sup>.

3. Forasmuch as by an order of Bridgewat<sup>r</sup> Sessions last It was ordered that William Tucker Treasurer for the Easterne Division of the Countie for the Bridges should pay unto Mr Henry Fisher of Newton Thirty pounds to bee by him Employed towards the reparations of a Bridge of this Countie called Ivybridge And for that the said Treasurer hathe not moneyes sufficient in his hands to performe the same It is ordered that the said Mr Fisher shall have full power and authority And the said Mr Fisher is hereby authorized to levy by distresse on the inhabitants of severall Hundreds and liberties of this Countie who are behind and in arrear severall somes of money imposed on them by a Rate made for the raisinge of One hundred pounds in the Easterne Division of this County for the repayinge of the County Bridges the seuerall somes of money by them seuerally in arrere, (viz.) of the Hundred of Kilmersdon 3<sup>li</sup> 15<sup>s</sup> of Norton Ferris 4<sup>li</sup> Bath For 6<sup>li</sup> of the Liberty of Hampton and Claverton 7<sup>li</sup>, of Brent cum Wrengton 6<sup>li</sup>, of the Twelve Hides of Glaston 6<sup>li</sup>, for and towards the reparations of the said Bridge called Ivybridge and the Justices of the Peace of the said Division are desired to give Countenance to the said Mr Fisher in soe doeing and to comaund such officers to his assistance herein from tyme to tyme as shalbee requisite.

4. Uppon the Petition of Andrew Bowyer of Cannington and consideration had of his Condition, This Court doth thinke fitt to

recomend him to the twoe next Justices of the Peace to Cannington aforesaid to bee by them licensed to sell Ale and keepe a Common tipplinge howse, Anie former order or Restrainte notwithstandinge.

5. Uppon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of Bath For thereby shewing that there are 5 Countie Bridges in the Easterne Division of this Countie (viz.) Lambridge within the parishe of Swanswicke Freshford bridge within the parishe of Freshford Stambridge within the parishe of Batheaston Burham bridge att Shockerweeke in Bathford parishe and Fordebridge in the same parishe, all which Bridges are in decay as by the said Petition is alleaged.

Four of the justices inhabiting the said Division (whereof one to be of the Quorum) to meet and examine the truth of the said Petition and take course touching the same Bridges as they shall find cause according to the Statutes in such cases made and provided.

6. Uppon readinge the Petition of Robert Least on the behalfe of Nicholas Griffen a poore ould man of the age of Threescore and Thirteene yeares not able to helpe himselfe nor haveinge anie home to goe unto thereby desireinge that the said Griffen may have and receive entertainment and releife from the parishe of Badgeworth where hee was borne and bred, This Court doth hold the desire reasonable and order the same accordingly unles uppon notice given unto the Overseers of the same parishe or one of them they shall att the next Generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for this Countie show good cause to the contrary.

7. It is ordered that the Estreating of all yssues forfeited for Non-repaire of Marke bridge in this Countie bee spared and forborne unto from and after the next generall Sessions of the Peace to bee held for the Countie, and then to bee Estreated unless the said bridge shalbe in the meane tyme sufficiently repaired.

8. John Reeves Governor of St. Margaretts Hospitall within the parishe of West Mounckton having had five pounds paid to

him by virtue of the order of Taunton Sessions last of the arrear of £25, to be paid £5 more towards the satisfaction of the said arrears.

9. Henry Webb to be absolutely freed and discharged from keeping and maintaining a child born in lawful matrimony between Mary Newman of the parish of Pilton and one John Austen And it being affirmed by the said parishe that the said Mary Newman the Mother of the said Child is now resident att Sarum in the Countie of Wiltes It is therefore ordered that the said Child bee att the Chardge of the said parishe of Pilton sent to Sarum aforesaid to the said Mother. [See Taunton Sessions last.]

10. These are to Certify unto the Agents and Commissioners for grauntinge and compoundinge for wynelicences that it is the opinion of this Court that one Wyne Taverne wilbee sufficient for the furnishinge and accomodatinge of the Towne of Wiveliscombe in this Countie with wyne, In testimony whereof wee have subscribed our names and putt our seales the day and yeere abovementioned.

W. Ceely,  
Ri. Jones,

Tho. Latch,  
Tho. Cox,

John Cary.

11. Whereas Henry Martyn of Wells in this Countie a maimed souldier did heretofore by order of Sessions receive a pension of Tenn pounds yearly which was lately by order of Sessions reduced to fower pounds yearly This Court uppon readinge of the petition of the said Henry Martyn and uppon consideration had of his sad and lowe Condition beinge a man of neere Eightie yeares of age and very lame and almost blind doth now thinke fitt and soe order that the said pension of fower pounds yearly bee from henceforth raised & advanced to the some of six pounds yearly which the said Henry Martyn is to receive quarterly of the Treasurer of maymed souldiers, &c.

12. Uppon the instance of Henry Bonner Esq<sup>r</sup> late Sherriffe of this Countie This Court doth nominate and appointe John Pyne William Ceely Thomas Gorges and John Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup> fower

of the Justices of the Peace of this Countie or anie twoe of them one of the twoe beinge of the Quorum to view and oversee the Estreats of the Countie Court for this yeare accordinge to the Statute in that behalfe.

13. Uppon readinge the petition of Dominicke Fisher of Wells in this Countie settinge forth that hee is a very poore man and hath a chardge of Children to mainteyne and haveinge a convenient howse to sell beere and lodge Travellers in hee humbly desires a license soe to doe which this Court thinketh fitt and reasonable and doth give leave and license to him to sell beere and ale accordingly Hee the said Fisher well and truely observinge all articles and orders to bee observed by Alehowse keepers by the lawes and statutes of this Comon Wealth Provided that this license continue in force for one whole yeare next ensueing the date hereof and noe longer.

14. Uppon readinge the petition of William Carter late Constable of Beckington thereby shewing that he hath disbursed divers somes of money for the said parishe for which hee hath receaved noe satisfaction although a rate hath beene made and moneyes gathered thereon for that purpose; This Court doth order that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of Beckington aforesaid doe present to the twoe next Justices a perfect Accompt of What moneyes have beene soe rated and collected thereuppon, and the said twoe Justices are uppõ receipt of such accompt to order the said Petitioner such releife herein as the nature of the case shall require or to certify how they find the same att the next generall Sessions.

15. Uppon readinge of the Petition of George Potter Samuell Potter and John Potter of the parishe of Wilton whereby they desire satisfaction for the keepinge of a base Child (whereof Mr. William Hill of Timbercombe is Charged to bee the reputed father) accordinge to an order of Bridgewater Sessions last that the said William Hill [then of the parish of Pitminster] was ordered to satisfie and pay to the Overseers of the Poore of the said parishe of Wilton within tenn daies tenn pounds for and towards the bindinge out as an apprentice and future maintenance of

the said Child. And it beinge admitted by both sides that the said Arreres have not beene ascerteyned but the said Petitioners Samuel and John Potter have made oath before them [the justices] of 46<sup>s</sup> by them laid out of Purse besides there travell and paines att seuerall Sessions of this Countie in seekinge after an order for the releife of the said Childe And that they and there father had beene att tenn pounds charge towards the releife of the said Child to keepe it from perishinge the Overseers of the said pishe neglectinge to doe the same, And uppon hearinge of witnes uppon oath who testified that the said William Hill in pursuance of the said Order had paid unto them the some of 55<sup>s</sup> for chardges expended by the said parishe for the maintennce of the said Child And uppon readinge of an Indenture of appntishood dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of October last whereby it appeareth that the said William Hill in further pursuance of the said order had bound the said child apprentice to one Humfry Blake of Overstowey in this Countie gent: Now in respect the said Order of Bridgewater Sessions hath not been directly pursued nor the said arreres ascerteyned by the said two Justices It is by this Court referred to the before named twoe Justices John Pyne and John Gorges and alsoe to Edward Ceely Esq<sup>r</sup>. to call the said Overseers before them and to ascerteyne the said Arreres and necessary chardges of the said parishe and of the Petitioners on there behalfe towards the releife of the said Child over and above the said 55<sup>s</sup> paid by the said William Hill as aforesaid.

16. A warrant addressed to the Tythingman of the Liberty of Mells and others to apprehend Hugh Banwell of Mells who had escaped from the Tithingman in contempt of justice while brought hither on a warrant of the good behaviour awarded against him.

17. A warrant addressed to the Constables of the Hundred of Froome and others for the apprehension of Humfry Yerbury and John Yerbury "forasmuch as John the sonne of Humfry Yerbury did in open Court in a disorderly manner for and in the name of the said Humfry Yerbury offer unto the Court scandalous matter against Thomas Littman gent to the great affront of the Court and evill example of all persons then present."



18. Forasmuch as it appeareth unto this Court that Ambrose Clarke hath beene apprehended and taken travellinge and begginge as a vagrant without anie license soe to doe contrary to lawe hee beinge borne as hee saith at Christ Church in Hampsheire This Court doth certify and make known that the said Ambrose Clarke hath beene punished here att Wells by whippinge accordinge to the Statute in this behalfe And doth order require that hee bee forth with sent the next way, from parishe to parishe by the officers of each parishe to Christ Church aforesaid beinge the place of his birth the said Clarke beinge allowed fortnight and noe more for such his travell.—[*S.R.*, lxxxii, ii, 95.]

19. The like order for William Smith to bee sent to Dartmouth in the Countie of Devon hee beinge allowed tenn daies.—[*S.R.*, lxxxii, ii, 95.]

23. The like order for Margaret Pyke to bee sent to Sherbourne in the Countie of Dorsett hee being allowed tenn daies.

To the Con<sup>bles</sup> of the Towne of Wells and all other officers whome theis may concerne.

21. License is graunted unto William Ivyleafe of Froome yeoman to buy weekely in anie open faire or markett in the Countie of Wilts (soe as it bee not by forestallinge) the quantity of 2 quarters of barley drege or oates, and to converte the same into malt and the same to sell for his best advantage Provided hee use this his license accordinge to the orders of Sessions concerninge malsters. And to sell weekely one quarter of barley soe bought in open Markett in Froome att the rates and prices the same then are and noe more And to enter into recognizaunces before one or more Justices of the peace of this Countie for the due observaunce of this license within Thirty daies after the date hereof.

The like license graunted to Henry Marchant of Froome yeoman under the hands & scales of W. Ceely Ri. Jones John Cary.  
Tho. Latch Tho. Cox

22. Uppon readinge of an order of Taunton Sessions last made twixt the inhabitants of Puxton and Yatton concerninge the ſettlement of Chriſtian Griffith and her child It was then ordered uppon full hearinge of both parties that the ſaid Griffith and her Child ſhould bee removed from Yatton to Puxton and there ſettled untill Bridgewater Sessions laſt. The ſaid Chriſtian Griffith and her ſaid Child from hencefourth to bee ſettled att Puxton there to bee provided for according to Lawe, and Yatton to bee abſolutely freed and diſcharged from them.

23. Whereas one Walton Leversadge and others beinge Indicted att Wells Sessions which was in the yeare of our Lord God 1648: for a forcible entry into the Mansion howſe of one Mary Mullens ſinglewoman ſcituat in the pariſhe of Compton Dando in this Countie unto which Indictm<sup>t</sup> they appeared and traversed the ſame, uppon which the yssue was ioyned, which yssue was tryed att Taunton Sessions which was in the yeare of our Lord God 1649: uppon which tryall the ſaid Walton Leversadge was found guilty accordinge to the ſaid Indictment but the reſt of the perſons indicted were found Not guilty. And Whereas Judgem<sup>t</sup> was ſtayed uppon the ſaid verdict againſt the ſaid Walton Leversadge untill the ſaid Juſtices ſhould have further adviſed thereon; Now uppon Complaint made by the ſaid Mary Mullens that the poſſeſſion of the ſaid Mansion howſe and lands belonginge there to are ſtill deteyned from her by the ſaid Walton Leversadge This Court uppon mature Conſideration had of the premiſſes doth award and order that a writt of Reſtitution bee made and yſſued forth to the Sherriſſe of this countie to deliver the poſſeſſion of the ſame manſion howſe and lands unto the ſaid Mary Mullens unles the ſaid Leversadge beinge perſonally acquainted with this order ſhall ſhew good cauſe to the contrary att the next generall Sessions.

24. Uppon readinge of an order of Ivelcheſter Sessions laſt made between the Liberty of the City or Burrough of Wells and the Out pariſh of St Cutberts in Wells touchinge a difference as to their Joyninge togeather in ratinge and other things accordinge to the ſtatute in that behalfe, and uppon hearinge what could now bee alleadged concerning the ſame for that on the one ſide

Custome and longe usage is alleadged too warrant their practice and whether anie such Custome or usage hath bene is most properly determineable by a Jury of twelve men although much of the reasonableness of such Custome or usage the Court is to judge This Court therefore in order to a finall determination of the said difference doth order and direct by consent of both parties that an indictment bee by the said out. parishe of Wells att the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this Countie preferred against one Thomas Boultinge of Easton in this Countie for takinge a distrese on the same Out parrishe for moneyes rated thereon towards the releife of the Poore of the same City or Burrough by the said Liberty of the said City or Burrough which said Boultinge shall forthwith appeare gratis to the said Indictment and pleade to yssue, and thereupon a tryall to bee had att the same Sessions. Att which tryall both parishes are to take notice to come fully prepared with their witnesses att their perils And upon tryall of the said yssue this Court hath intended finally to determine the same difference; And it is further ordered by the like consent of both parties that in the meane tyme all former orders touchinge the premisses and the execution thereof shall stand and bee in suspence.

25. The difference between the two several parishes of Chewstoake and Chew Magna "touchinge the settlem<sup>t</sup> of one John Tinkens a very poore man" This Court doth not think fitt finally to determine of the same matter att present but rather to desire the Advice of the Justices of Assize for the western Circuitte thereon who are to bee attended with this Order And upon the advice given by the said Justices this Court will doe therein as shalbee meete.

26. Upon readinge the petition of Richard Combes and John Cooles late Constables of the hundred of Froome shewing that about three yeares now last past they did in obedience to Warrants to them directed by severall Justices of the peace of the County convey severall offenders to the Comon goale wherein they expended severall sumes of money the said offenders beinge poore and not having wherewithall to defray the same charges And therefore the Peticoners desires [*sic*] reparation therein; this

Court doe not hold fitt to make any Order herein but doeth direct the petitioners to repaire to the severall parishes where the said persons were apprehended and there to cause Rates to be made for reimbursing themselves according to the Statute in this behalfe. And in case they find opposition herein this Court uppon Complaint thereof will take such further course as the cause shall require.

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GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIC PEACE HELD AT  
 IVELCHESTER in the County aforesaid the Eighth day of  
 April in the year One thousand six hundred and fifty-one  
 Before William Ceely, Henry Bonner, Edward Ceely,  
 Richard Jones, Thomas Latch, Robert Morgan, John Cary  
 of Castle Cary and John Turberville, Esq.

1. Uppon readinge the Petition of Albian Seaward and consideration had of his Complaint it is ordered that the Overseers of the parishe of Crewkerne doe make due payment unto the said Albian of the eightene pence per week formerly ordered unto him out of the said parishe and the arreres thereof: In case of refusal or neglect the next justice of the peace to Crewkerne, on complaint, to bind them to appear at the next General Sessions.

2. Uppon readinge the severall orders made att Taunton, Bridgewater, and Wells Sessions, last, touchinge the difference betweene the twee severall pishes of Ubley and Yarlington concerninge a weekly som of Twelve pence which Ubley hath for some tyme paid to Yarlington towards the maintennce of one Mary Martyn and uppon readinge a Certificate of John Buckland Esqr in pursuance of an order made at Wells Sessions last It is uppon full hearinge of both parishes and of their Consell ordered that Ubley shall forthw<sup>th</sup> pay unto Yarlington all arreres of the said weekly some untill Taunton Sessions last which beinge computed amounteth to nyne shillings and is paid to Yarlington aforesaid; And it is further ordered that the said weekly some of Twelve pence shall cease and that Ubley shall

bee from hencefourth absolutely freed and dischargd of & from anie paym<sup>t</sup> thereof Anie former order or direction of this Court to the contrary notw<sup>th</sup>standinge.

3. Uppon readinge of the petition of William Stone, Thomas [torn] and Christofer Sheppard of Froomezellwood thereby shewing that [theire] Cattle have beene distreyned for an amercement ymposed uppon the [ ] of this Countie att the generall Sessions held at Ivelchester the 11th day of April the 24th year of the Raigne of Kinge Charles late Kinge of England for non repaire of Countie Bridges uppon the takinge of which distresse the petitioners had to pay three pounds eight shillings which they pray may by order of this Court be laid uppon the inhabitants of Froomezellwood aforesaid by an equal tax as in such cases is usuall whereby the petitioners may be reimbursed This Court doth hold the same desire reasonable and order the same accordingly.

4. Forasmuch as Thomas Baker, Bayliffe of the Hundred of Kingsbury hath beene att this Sessions Convicted of Extortion and appeareth to bee a man of an ill behaviour life and conversation It is ordered that the said Baker bee and hee the said Baker is hereby disabled to officiate anie further as bayliffe of the said Hundred of Kingsbury or to execute the office of Bayliffe of anie other Hundred within this Countie And the Lord or Lords of the said Hundred his Steward and other officers are desired by this Court forthwith to constitute and make some other meete person or persons to bee Bayliffe of the said Hundred of Kingsbury in the place and stead of the said Baker.

5. Uppon the examination of John Scott and John Tayler, Trumpeters who were lately apprehended att Crewkerne uppon suspicion of beinge lewde wandringe persons and disaffected to the state and uppon Consideration had of a Certificate produced by them to justify theire innocency It is ordered that the said Scott and Tayler bee dischargd from theire ymprisonm<sup>t</sup> and bee restored to theire trumpetts and such other things as were taken from them uppon or since such theire apprehension.



Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the inhabitants of the Towne of Bridgewater that one Jasper Barned came to Bridgewater and there resided for some tyme with his wife and family and is of late gon away havinge left a Daughter of his there which is about seaven yeares of age and become chardgeable to the said Towne, which daughter was borne within the parishe of Durleigh and the mother of the said Child is deceased and uppon desire made by the said Towne that the said child may bee removed to Durleigh It is ordered that the said child bee sent to Durleigh aforesaid there to bee provided for unles Durleigh havinge notice of this order shall att the next generall Sessions of the Peace show good cause to the Contrary; and in case the said matter shall come in dispute att the said next Sessions and the said Child shall thereuppon be adjudged to be pvided for by Durleigh then Durleigh to pay unto Bridgewater all chardges by them in the meane tyme to bee susteyned in keepinge the said Child.

7. Nicholas Griffin a poore old man of the age of Threescore and thirteene not able to help himselfe, to retourne to Badgeworth there to bee provided for till the next generall Sessions and from thenceforwards, unles Badgeworth shall then shew better cause to the contrary. And whereas Badgeworth did now endeavour to fix the said Griffin uppon Eastbrent, this Court uppon hearinge both sides doth order that Eastbrent bee absolutely dischardged and freed from receiving and enterteyninge the said Griffin.

8. This Court takeinge into their serious consideration of the necessity of a fitt person for to be particularly employed in this Countie to have the reputation of a marshall for the observinge discoveringe apprehension of rouges, vagabonds and suspitious persons within the said Countie in order to the preservation of the peace thereof and beinge informed that Ralph Mullens of Sherborne in the Countie of Dorset is a very fitt man to undergoe the said service, doth order that hee bee ymployed to undergoe the same accordingly untill further order soe as hee shall behave himselfe honestly in the said ymployment; And doth hereby require all Constables, Tithingmen and other officers

for the Comon Wealth to bee aydinge and assistinge unto him herein And it is further ordered that for his Salary hee shall have xx<sup>s</sup> paid unto him att this Sessions and xx<sup>s</sup> more att the next Sessions by the Treasurers of the Hospitalls of this Countie And if this Court shall then find hee shall deserve a better sallary then to be encreased as shall then bee thought meete.

9. Further order made upon the report of Alexander [Pym ?] and William Ceely Esq<sup>rs</sup> to whom an inquiry as to the rating of the Tithing of Ham had been referred, to call before them the Tithingman and some competent number of every tithing in the Hundred of North Petherton and indifferently to ympose on each Tithinge its proportions as to all rates and payments whereof Justices of peace by the Lawe have Cognizaunce.

10. The case of Hugh Banwell of Wells who was charged with being the reputed father of a base child but dismissed at the Bridgwater Sessions for want of evidence to be reheard on a new complaint.

11. Forasmuch as John Bond was lately apprehended and taken collecting moneyes by counterfeit breifes of which hee hath been convicted and punished this Court doth order and require that hee bee forthwith sent the next way, from parishe to parishe by the officers of each parishe to St. Leonards in Exon beinge the place of his birth, the said Bond beinge allowed Eight daies and no more for such his travell.

To the Constables of the Towne of Ivelchester and all other officers this may concerne.

12. Uppon readinge the petition of the parishioners of Wincaulton in this Countie whereby they complaine that one Grace Toogood the wife of Walter Toogood and her two children beinge inhabitants of Mayden Bradley and there settled accordinge to Lawe in May 1650 were brought to Wincaulton by the parishoners of Mayden Bradley and there left without anie legall [authority] and that afterwards uppon a full hearinge of the same matter att a private Sessions held att Warminster for the

County of Wiltes the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1650 on full hearinge of both sides It is adiudged that Mayden Bradley should provide for her and her Children notwithstandinge which afterwards att a Quarter Sessions held att Warminster without hearinge Wincaulton it was ordered that the said woman should bee placed att Wincaulton till good cause were shewed to the contrary, although Wincaulton since attended att a Quarter Sessions held att Marleborough for the same Countie in October last with their proofs touchinge the premisses yett the Court there would not revoke the said order of Warminster Sessions but rather thought fitt to submitt the consideration of the premisses to the opinion of the Lords the Judges of Assize for the Western Circuite And the petitioners further shewed that att Wilts Assizes last they attended the Clerke of the Peace for the same Countie to have the Coppies of the said Proceedings whereby to informe their Lordships the Case which he refused to graunte them ; This court in regard the same dispute ariseth betweene twoe Townes lyinge within twoe severall Counties doth not thinke fitt to take the merritts of the same into Consideration but doth make its humble request unto their Lordships to order the clerke of the peace for Wiltes to attend them with the Case and that their Lordships will finally determine thereof.

13. Uppon readinge of the petition of the inhabitants of the parishe of Kingston Seymour to have a land tax for the repaire of Highwaies allowed, And uppon readinge of an order of Wells Sessions of the Thirteenth day of January in the one and Twenth yeare of the Rayne of James late Kinge of England whereby a Rule hath beene laid downe to levy the same This Court consideringe the condition of the said parishe doth well approve of the equity of the said Order and of the said Land tax as to the proportion and doth order that the said Land tax have the Teste of the Court and doth desire the twoe next Justices of the peace to Kingston Seymour on Complaint to him [sic] made of inconformity to the same to call before him such person or persons as shall refuse to pay the same and to cause him or them to find suerties to appeare att the next generall Sessions of the Peace to be held for this Countie to show cause why hee or they should not contribute accordinge to the said Land tax.

14. At this Sessions George Lutterell Esq<sup>r</sup> is chosen Treasurer of the maymed souldiers for the ensueinge yeare in the place and roome of John [torn] Esq<sup>r</sup> the late Treasurer.

15. Thomas Gorges Esq<sup>r</sup> chosen Treasurer of the westerne division and John Cary Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer of the easterne division, and Richard Jones and Thomas Latch Esq<sup>rs</sup> intr[eated] to take the Accompt of the late Treasurers.

#### ORDERS FOR BASTARDS.

1. Order for the maintenance &c. of a child born at Cory Mallett—Dated the 9th of April 1651.

(2) Order for the relief of the parish of St Cutberts in Wells as for the maintenance of a base child named Mary—Dated the 10th of April 1651.

(3) Order for the relief of St. Cutberts in Wells as for the maintenance of a base man child born at Walcombe—Dated the 10th of October 1651.

Disbursements &c [a long list of the names of the pensioners who were mostly maimed soldiers?].

Att Taunton To poore distressed widdowes	
at y <sup>e</sup> severall quarter Sessions...	... 02-00-00
To one Captain Bushell a Distressed gent	00-05-00
To John Blundell for himselfe and nine	
other souldiers that came out of	
Ireland ... ..	05-02-06

The grand Jury beinge desired by the Court to Consider of Wages for labourers Artificers handicrafts and others accordinge to the statute in that case made and provided doe present theire opinions for this present yeare as followeth.

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Men servants yearly ... ..	04-06-08
Maid servants ... ..	02-00-00
Mowers daily findinge themselves meat and Drinke ... ..	00-01-06
Mowers att meat and drinke ... ..	00-00-09
Men makeinge hay daily finding themselves	00-01-00
Men makeinge hay att meate and drinke ...	00-00-06
Women makeinge hay finding themselves...	00-00-08
Women att meate and drinke ... ..	00-00-04
Men findinge themselves meate and drinke att Corne harvest daily... ..	00-01-04
Women findinge themselves daily ... ..	00-01-00
Men att Meate and Drinke daily... ..	00-00-08
Women att Meate and Drinke ... ..	00-00-06
Masons Carpenters and Tylers findinge themselves in meate and Drinke daily	00-01-02
Masons Carpenters and Tylers att meate and Drinke daily ... ..	00-00-08
Threshers and Dykers daily findinge themselves ... ..	00-01-00
Threshers and Dykers att meate and Drinke ... ..	00-00-06

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE OF THE  
COUNTIE AFORESAID HELD ATT TAUNTON for the same  
Countie on Tuesday next after the feast of the translation  
of St. Thomas the Martyr (that is to say) the Eighth day of  
July in the yeere of our Lord God One thousand six  
hundred fiftie and one Before William Ceely, Henry Bonner,  
Thomas Siderfyn, John Turberville, George Searle, Robert  
Morgan, John Gorges, Thomas Gorges, Edward Ceely and  
John Cary Esq<sup>rs</sup> Justices assigned to keepe the publique  
peace in the aforesaid countie.

1. It is ordered that all process of this Court against the  
inhabitants and Terntenants of Ilchester, Tintenhull and Bewly  
in this County for nuisaunces and non repaire of Highwaies bee



stayed untill Wells Sessions next; And then from thencefourth all Presentments and Indictments which now are against the same inhabitants or Tertrtenants of Tintenhull Ivelchester and Bewly for nuisaunces and non repaire of highwaies bee discharged In case oath shalbee then made that the same nuisaunces are removed and highwaies well repaired.

The like order for the parishes of Banwell, Congresbury, Sock Dennis, Brimpton, William Walrond, Esqr, Mr George Bisse of Spargrove, Edmond Knaven of Tintenhull, Thomas Hopkins of Lambrooke, Ambrose Moore of Dolishe, John Chaffey of the Tithinge of Sock Dennis.

The like order for Wiveliscombe, Martocke for Lowsam bridge, Witcombe neere Bath, Northover, North Barrow, Wiveliscombe, Taunton St James, the Tithinge of Hutton, Welton within the parishe of Midsomer Norton, Midsomer Norton, and Wembdon.

2. Uppon readinge of the Petition of the parishoners of Westbuckland whereby they complaine that about seaven yeers now last past Edward Dyer and William Leman sithence deceased were chosen Overseers of the Poore of and within the same parishe all which tyme the said Dyer received in Stock xj $\frac{1}{2}$ . xvs. and afterwards collected severall somes of money belonging to the Poore and left other moneyes uncollected for all which hee refuseth to accompt: The examination of this matter referred to the two next Justices of the Peace to Westbuckland examine how they find the same to be and to determine thereof if they can or otherwise to certify the true state of the same matter at the next General Sessions.

3. Uppon Consideration had of a Certificate of William Sellecke and severall the inhabitants of the parishe of Durston testifyinge their Consents for Henry Shoote of the saide parishe beinge an honest poore labourer to have liberty to erect a Cottage uppon a parcel of wast ground called Rext plott in the parishe of Durston And of a graunt produced under the hands and seales of John Gorges and Samuell Whetcombe Esq<sup>rs</sup> twoe of the Commissioners for sequestrations for the Countie (the same wast ground beinge heretofore the land

belonginge to Sir John Stowell and actually seized and sequestred into the hands of the Common Wealth) unto the said Henry Shoote of the said Wastground with liberty to build a Cottage thereon It is assented unto and ordered by this Court that the said Henry Shoote have liberty to erect and build a Cottage on the said Wastground for the habitation of himselfe and family for and duringe the term of the natural life of him the said Henry Shoote onely and afterwards the same shalbee converted to the use of such poore people of the said parishe of Durston as shalbee there placed in accordinge to the statute in this behalfe made & provided.

4. Uppon hearinge of the debate betweene the parishoners of Cannington and Enmore concerninge the settlem<sup>t</sup> of one Mabell Grove who lately lived at Enmore and was there begotten with Child and thence came to Cannington beinge the place of her birth and there lived for some tyme without interruption; The said Mabell Grove shall remayne at Cannington untill the next Sessions and from thenceforth bee there settled unles the said parishoners of Cannington haveinge due notice of this order shall then show good cause to the contrary.

5. The Complaint made by John Buckland of Congresbury against one John Cooke of Chelvey the reputed father of a base child referred to the two next justices to Congresbury.

6. Uppon readinge the petition of Samuell Steevens of Bishoppes Liddiard thereby complayninge that hee havinge served apprentishipp to the trade of a Tayler at Bishoppes Lideard aforesaid and lived there afterwards for 7 yeares and havinge beene since a souldier in the Parliaments service under the Commaund of Colonell Charles Blount by the space of 4 yeares and now cominge back to inhabite att Bishoppes Lideard aforesaid to exercise his said trade and rentinge a howse there is disturbed by the inhabitants of the same parishe: Stevens to bee and stand settled at Bishoppes Lideard aforesaid untill the next generall Sessions and from thencefourth unles Bishoppes Lideard haveinge notice hereof shall then show good cause to the contrary.

7. Uppon readinge the Petition of William Axford of the parishe of Taunton St. James therein showinge that hee hath served the office of Tithingman for the Tithinge of Extra Porte in the said parishe one whole yeare endinge the 29th of October last att which tyme Mr Henry West of Taunton magdalen was legally chosen to execute the said office and doth yett refuse to take his oath for the Execution of the said office And therefore hath prayed this Court to bee freed of the said office and that the said Mr West may serve in the said office and give the said Axford reasonable satisfaction for the tyme hee hath served in the same office since the tyme Mr West was chosen. The two next Justices of the peace to Taunton to examine the premisses and compose the same between the said parties if they accordinge as they shall findinge cause or otherwise to certifie theire opinions therein att the next Sessions.

8. Uppon readinge of an accompt delivered unto this Court by Marmaduke Corum Keeper of the howse of Correction att Taunton of disbursements by him made touchinge the repairinge of the said howse of Correction amountinge to the some of five pounds Eleaven shillings and three pence; John Gorges Esq<sup>r</sup> to examine the said Accompt and in case the said John Gorges shall find the same desire reasonable; the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the western division to pay the said Corum £5 11s. 3d. or such parte thereof as the said Mr. Gorges shall conceive meete.

9. An order made confirming an order made by George Lutterell and Thomas Siderfyn Esq<sup>rs</sup> between the parishioners of Nettlecombe and the parishioners of Oldclee touching the settlement of one Johane Attwell an unmarried woman. Eight shillings cost allowed to Old Cleeve by John Haggatt Clerk of the Peace.

10. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the parishoners of the parishe of Evill that one John Delamont of the parishe of Brimpton who was borne and hath lived there by the space of nine yeares now last past is about a fortnight since come into the said parishe of Evill there to reside with his sonn who is himselfe a poore man and ready to come to the Chardge of the parishe.

Delamont to remain att Evill until the next general Sessions and that Brimpton shall upon notice then show cause why the said Delamont shall not be settled with them as formerly and why they should not pay the Costs and Charges that Evill shall be at in the mean time in the relief of him the said Delamont.

11. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the parishe of Cutcombe that one Mrs Mary Osbourne an Irishewoman and Traveller cominge to Luxburrowe to repose herselfe beinge greate with child and ready to lye Downe was by one Thomas Peirce a Tithingman of Luxburrow forced to Cutcombe where shee fell in Travell assoone as shee came thither, and was there delivered of twoe female Children and is sithence deceased leavinge the same twoe children uppon the Chardge of Cutcombe; George Lutterell and Thomas Siderfyn Esq<sup>rs</sup> to examine the same business and determine the same settlement if they can, otherwise to certify the true state of the case at the next General Sessions.

12. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the parishe of Oldcleeve that one Margaret White a very poore woman with her child who lived severall yeares in the parishe of Nettlecombe lately came to Oldcleeve and there rented a howse for one yeare whereof Oldcleeve takinge notice within one month next ensueinge begann to dispute with Nettlecombe touchinge the same for that shee was like to bee chargeable to Oldcleeve, whereuppon severall of the parishoners of Nettlecombe did by writinge under their hands promise to receive her againe att Nettlecombe in case she should retourne within seaven yeares Soe as Oldcleeve would consent that shee might reside there att present which Oldcleeve doth now refuse to doe and desire that shee may bee sent back to Nettlecombe. This Court doth not thinke fitt to remove the said Margaret with her said Child from Old Cleeve duringe the said yeere for which shee tooke the said howse But doth declare that shee beinge there shall not bee taken as a settlement because it was in some way questioned within a month after shee came to Oldcleeve although the said questioninge of her extended not soe farr as a Complaint to the Justices of the peace as it ought to have done, but was stopped by the said Agreement of Nettlecombe.



13. A daughter of one Jasper Barned about 7 years of age to be settled at Durlleigh unless Durlleigh having due notice both of this and the said former order shall shew good cause to the contrary at the next Sessions.

14. Whereas Complaint is made unto this Court by John Gibbes, Robert Tyler, and Frisy Clement widow, of the parishe of Witcombe in this Countie that there hath beene severall yssues estreated out of this Court and levied by Mr. Gorman on the said parties the some of sixteene pounds and upwards by Greenewax ; Order made for an equal rate and that the same to be collected and then paid unto the said Gibbes, Tayler, and Clement with such charges as have been by them disbursed or paid.

15. Uppon readinge of the petition of the minister Churchwardens and other inhabitants of the parishe of Puckington to have a paymt of xij*l*. p. weeke payable by Puckington towards the reliefe of one Thomas Parker who became lame in the service of one Richard Collier of that place taken of [*sic*] and uppon hearinge what could be alleadged on thother side It is ordered that the same weekly pay shall continue untill Bridge-water Sessions next and thence forwards unless Puckington shall then shew better cause to the contrary.

16. This Court takinge into theire serious consideration the greate decay and danger of Tonebridge in or neere Taunton beinge a Countie bridge and to bee repaired att the Chardge of the Countie And that if it bee not repaired before the next Winter season is like to bee att a farr greater chardge then now may bee, besides the many issues now in chardges out of the Exchequer against the inhabitants of this County for the not repaire thereof, doth thinke fitt and desire that Mr. Siderfyn, Mr. Turbervill, Mr Thomas Gorges, and Mr John Gorges Justices of the peace of this Countie wilbee pleased to meete togeather and consider what chardges of repaire of the said bridge may bee and to call before them all the now and former Constables within their divisions that are concerned, and require accompts from them what money they or anie of them have received on anie former orders



of this Court for raisinge of money for Countie Bridges ; And that all such money which they shall finde in the hands of the said Constables or in arrere by anie others shalbee paid into such person or persons as the said Gentlemen shall appointe to receive the same and soe much thereof as they shall thinke fitt to bee forth-with employed in the present reparation of the said Bridge.

The like order for Gawbridge—

Mr. Pyne Mr. E. Ceely Mr. Strangewaies Mr. Cary.

17. It is ordered that Richard Gonninge of the parishe of Bicknaller [Bickenhall] in this Countie bee from hencefourth absolutely freed from serveinge in anie Jury or Juries att anie generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this Countie in respect of his age beinge seaventy yeares old and upwards and other reasons now seeminge good to the Court whereof the Bayliffe of the Hundred of Abdicke and Busston [Bulstone] and others concerned herein are to take notice and to forbear to Summon him to serve in anie such Jury or Juries.

18. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court that severall persons usually gather together att the parishe Church of Winsham in this Countie on Sabath daies and then and there ringe in peale for pleasure and pastime under pretence of callinge people to the said Church to the greate profanation of those daies and contrary to the lawes for the observation of the Sabbath day This Court doth therefore prohibit anie such ringinge on that day for the tyme to come also other ringinge on that day other then in manner as hath beene used for the most parte of theis twoe yeares now last past for callinge people together to heare the word of God.

19. It is ordered That Mary Bernard Ellenor Slape and Dorothy Bradford bee sett at liberty and discharged from theree ymprisonment in the Bridewell att Taunton.

20. Wheras Matthew Irishe of Congresbury in this Countie gent was committed by Thomas Latch Esqr for want of sureties to appeare att this Sessions to answere for refusinge to execute the office of Tithingman for the Tithinge of Congersbury

Weeke and Puxton, this Court being well satisfied with the allegations of the said Matthew Irishe and the sufficiencie of the said [William] Clifford doth order and require that the said Clifford bee sworne Tithingman of the said Tithinge by the Steward of the said Leete or Lawday.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE OF THE COUNTIE AFORESAID HELD ATT BRIDGEWATER for the same Countie on Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michaell tharchangell (this to say) the thirtieth day of September in the yeere of our Lord God One Thousand six hundred fiftie and one. Before John Pyne, William Ceely, Thomas Siderfyn, John Turbervill, Thomas Latch, Edward Ceely, Thomas Gorges, George Lutterell, John Cary, Robert Morgan and Giles Strangewaies, Esq<sup>rs</sup>, Justices assigned to keepe the publike peace in the aforesaid County.

1. Uppon hearinge the matter in question betweene the twoe parishes of Cutcombe and Luxburrowe touchinge provision to bee made for one of twoe children lately borne of the body of an Irishe woman (Traveller) att the said parishe of Cutcombe (the mother and thother of the twoe children beinge sithence deceased), forasmuch as it doth not appeare unto this Court that the said woman was brought to lye downe and bee delivered att Cutcombe either by force or fraud used or practized by or on the behalfe of Luxburrowe this Court doth adjudge the same child to bee and stand settled att Cutcombe and doth order that itt bee there provided for att the charge of the said parishe.

2. Uppon readinge the petition of Walter Beemer thereby sheweinge that hee haveinge bound his sonn Walter Beemer an apprentice unto John Castle of Marke and Johane his wife to bee instructed in the trade of a Tanner the said Castle hath of late given over his said trade and forsaken his said habitation by meanes whereof the Petitioners said sonn is like to want a convenient employ<sup>nt</sup> and maintenance ; The said apprentice shalbee

freed and discharged from the service of the said John Castle and Johane his wife unless on personal notice given unto them or one of them he or she shall show sufficient cause to the contrary at the next General Sessions.

3. Uppon readinge the petition of severall well affected inhabitants of the parishe of Westonzoyland whereby they desire to bee free from Alehowses there not beinge occasion for anie within the same parishe, but on the contrary it beinge very inconvenient to have anie there, It is thought meete and ordered by this Court that there shall not bee anie license graunted to anie person or persons to sell ale or beere within the same parishe without its owne consent whereof all Justices of the peace of this Countie are desired to take speciall notice and to conforme hereunto.

4. Uppon readinge the petition of James Spracklinge on the behalfe of severall of the inhabitants of the parrishe of Odcombe thereby shewing that there are diverse private and suspected Alehowses within the said parishe as namely James Tompson's Peter Johnsons John Hopkins and William Chant's, who sell ale without license contrary to the Statute although they have beene questioned for theire so doeing before John Pyne Esq<sup>r</sup>, this Court doth order and require that the said persons doe forthwith on notice to them given by the Constables or other officers of the said parishe or anie one of them attend the twoe next Justices to Odcombe who are desired to support the same; and for that it is very inconvenience to have anie Alehowse in the said parishe It is thought meete and ordered by the Court that there shall not bee anie license graunted to anie person or persons to sell ale or beere within the same parishe without its owne consent whereof all Justices of the peace of this Countie are desired to take speciall notice and to conforme hereunto.

5. Uppon readinge the petition of Edith Bull of the parishe of Enmore whereby shee expresseth herselfe to bee in greate want and necessity of a howse and of maintenance and desireth releife from the same parishe; It is ordered that shee forthwith repaire to the next Justices of the peace to Enmore who are

desired to convene the Overseers of the said parishe before them and cause such provision to bee made for the said Mary as shalbee agreeable to Justice.

6. Uppon readinge the petition of the inhabitants of the parishe of Gregory stoake whereby they shew that one Edward Selleck late of the parishe of North Petherton who was lately impressed and sent over from thence to bee a souldier for the Parliament in Ireland where hee yett remaineth, sithence whose departure Katherine his wife is gonn from North-Petherton (the constant place of their habitation) to Gregory stoake where shee maketh her abode with one Gabriell Brewer who is releived by the same parishe, and therefore the petitioners desire to have her sent back to North Petherton and there settled; All parties concerned therein are ordered to attend with their witnesses at the next General Sessions, at which time this Court will finally determine of the same settlement; And in the meane tyme it is declared by this Court that they will not herein take notice of anie neglect on the parte of Gregory Stoake in not disturbinge of the said Katherine in case anie such shall then appeare.

7. Uppon readinge of the petition of John Welsh on the behalfe of himselfe & diverse other of the inhabitants of the parishe of Babcary in this Countie thereby sheweinge that the petitioner and the said other the same inhabitants beinge men of very small estates have for many yeeres past executed the office of a Tithingman within the said parishe or paid for the doeing thereof, and there beinge other inhabitants men of good estates within the same parishe who refuse to take uppon them the execution of the said office; Referred to Mr Cary and Mr Strangewaies to make such order herein as shall be agreeable to justice or else to certify the truth of the matter at the next general Sessions.

8. Uppon readinge the petition of one Amy Butcher thereby shewing that the petitioner beinge by warrant from the Constable of Milverton Hundred apprehended by one Christopher Hurly Tithingman of Welchford within the said Hundred uppon suspicion of burninge of one Henry Hellings howse, duringe her restraint and ymyrisonm<sup>t</sup> Thomas Chapple and Robert Washer

did take and carry away out of her howſe ſoe much goods as were worth 16<sup>s</sup>. and converted the ſame to their own uſes; Referred for examination to the next Juſtices of the Peace to Milverton who are deſired to convene the ſaid Chapple and Waſher before them and make ſuch order therein as ſhall be agreeable to juſtice.

9. Uppon readinge the petition of Phillipp Maunſell, and uppon hearinge of the matter ſtated by the ſaid petition, the caſe appearinge to bee that the petitioner haveinge uppon the Certificate of divers Parliament men and Juſtices of the peace dwellinge neere to the Towne of Wiveliscombe obteyned licence from the Commiſſioners of the wyne office in London to keepe a Taverne in the ſaid Towne hath beene and is opposed therein by one Goddard (who formerly had licence graunted to him by the ſaid Commiſſioners for the keepinge of a Tavern in the ſame Towne) uppon this ground that one Taverne is enough for the ſame Towne Now in reſpect that the ſaid Goddard is abſent and that this Court is altogether unacquainted with anie power in the Commiſſioners of the wyne office to graunte licenses to ſell wyne and doth conceive the power of grauntinge ſuch licenses by force of the ſtatute in this behalfe to reſt ſolely in the Juſtices of the peace of each Countie This Court doth not thinke fitt to determine anie thinge herein but doth direct that both parties doe att the next Aſſizes to bee held for this County attend the Juſtices of Aſſize for their Judgem<sup>t</sup> in this Cauſe and in the meane tyme noe prejudice is to come to either pty for the uſe of a wyne licence in the ſame Towne.

10. Uppon readinge of the Petition of Robert Cox and Henry Lokier Tithingmen of the ſeverall Tithings of Yeovilton and Draycott in this Countie thereby ſhewing that they have beene at the Chardge of fortie and five ſhillings a peece in repaying a certain bridge called Woodbridge lyeinge betweene the ſaid Tithings which was to be repaired att the equall chardges of both Tithings, and that divers of the inhabitants of the ſame Tithings doe reſuſe to pay their proportionable rates for the repaire of the ſame; The examination of the matter referred to the two next



justices to Yeovilton and Draycott to make such order therein as shalbee agreeable to Justice.

11. One Delamont to be sent back from Evill (Yeovil) to Brimpton and there settled, Brimpton not having shown any cause to the contrary as required by the order made at Taunton Sessions last.

12. Uppon readinge the petition of Thomasine Lavar thereby shewing that shee was arrested by John Light John Midlam and others by vertue of an Outlawry gotten out on an action Comenced against her on a Bond of Apparaunce which is conceived to bee forged, and that the said Light and the rest exacted of the petitioner the some of fower pounds for her liberty ; The examination of this business referred unto John Pyne, Giles Strangewaies and John Cary Esq<sup>rs</sup> or any two of them to examine the same business and deale with the said Light and Midlam accordinge to their demeritts.

13. Uppon readinge of an order of Settlement in the nature of a warrant made by Giles Strangewaies and John Cary Esq<sup>rs</sup> requiringe the Tythingman of Hatchpenn [Hadspen] to convey one Margarett Corpe and her children unto Ditchcatt there to bee settled with her husband who as it had beene affirmed to the said twoe Justices dwelled there, and uppon Complaint made unto this Court that the said warrant beinge shewed to Humfry Dorvill one of the Overseers of Ditchcatt hee had refused to yeild obedience thereunto In which respect it is thought meete by this Court to committ the said Humfry to Prison there to remaine untill hee shall find sureties for his good behaviour, and to appeare the next generall Sessions of the Peace ; and further it is ordered that both Hatchpenn and Ditchcatt are to attend att the same next Sessions fully prepared touchinge the same business, att which tyme this said Court doth resolve fully to determine the same difference as to the settlinge of the said Corpp his wife and children and the said Margarett with her said children are to bee carried forthwith to Ditchcatt there to remaine in the meane tyme with her said husband and by Ditchcatt to bee provided.

15. A warrant addressed to the Constables of the Hundred of Stone and Catsaish for the apprehension of Mr George Starr Lord of the said Hundred and John Mogg for contempt for refusing to submit to the orders made at the Ivelchester and Taunton Sessions appointing Henry Gander to the office of Baillywicke of the Hundred of Stone and Catsaishe.

15. The parish of Durleigh not having shown good cause to the contrary a daughter of Jasper Barnard to be settled there and the town of Bridgwater to be absolutely discharged from the further keeping or maintaining of the said child.

16. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the inhabitants of the Tythinge of Adscombe within the parishe of Overstowey that they are oppressed by the inhabitants of the Tythinge of Plainsfeild within the said parishe of Overstowey in makeinge of the rates for the said parishe wherein the inhabitants of Plainsfeild doe refuse to permitt the inhabitants of Adscombe to joyne with them and doe rate the said Tythinge of Adscombe more then in right they ought ; The consideration of the said matter referred to Thomas Siderfyn and John Turbervill Esq<sup>rs</sup> who are desired to convene all the parties concerned herein before them and to survey the said rates and to determine the difference betweene the said Tithings if they cann, otherwise to certify the truth of the same matter att the next generall Sessions.

17. All process of this Court against John Mallett gent for nuisances and non repaire of highwaies bee stayed untill Wells Sessions next and then and from thencefourth all presentments and Indictments which now are against the said Mr. Mallett for nuisaunces and non repaire of Highwaies bee dischargded in case oath shalbee then made that the same nuisaunces are removed and highwaies well repaired.

18. The some of five pounds bee paid by the Treasurers of the Hospitalls of the Western division of this Countie unto Frauncis Reeves Governo<sup>r</sup> of St Margaretts Hospitall in West Mounckton the same beinge the residue and in full of the 25<sup>th</sup> arreres heretofore due unto him.

THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE OF THE COUNTIE AFORESAID HELD AT WELLS for the same Countie on Tuesday next after the feast of Epiphanie (that is to say) the Thirteenth day of January in the yeare of our Lord God One Thousand six hundred fiftie and one [two] Before John Ashe, William Ceelie, John Buckland Richard Jones, Thomas Gorges, John Gorges, Thomas Latch, John Cary and Robert Morgan, Esquires, Justices assigned to keepe the publike peace in the aforesaid Countie.

1. The difference between the parishioners of the parish of Upton and one Henrie Stockham of Timberscombe who was bound over to appear at this Sessions for being the reputed father of a base child, referred to the two next Justices of the Peace to Upton.

2. Uppon the instaunce of Alexander Pym Esquier late Sherriffe of this Countie This Court doth nominate and appoint John Buckland, Thomas Latch, John Cary, and Robert Morgan Esquires, fower of the Justices of the Peace for this Countie or anie twoe of them, one of the twoe beinge of the Quorum, to view and affier the Estreats of the Countie Court for this yeere accordinge to the Statute in that behalfe.

3. This Court uppon consideration had of the Condition of Robert Daniell one of the maymed souldiers of this Countie doth thinke fitt and order that his pension of fiftie three shillings and fower pence bee increased to three pounds yeerely to bee paid to him quarterly by the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers of the Countie the first payment to beginn att this present Sessions and to continue till further order by this Court.

4. The petition of John Erbury and Robert Oram therein settinge forth that they with George Griffen and Henrie Hassard have from yeere to yeere beene compelled to doe the whole service of Tithingmanshipp for the West Tithinge of the Towne of Brewton for fower poore Cottages which they have to theire greate prejudice ; and that the rest of the said Inhabi-

tants of the said Tithinge doe totally exempt themselves from the said office contrarie to reason and justice; Referred to the two next justices unto Brewton to convene all the parties concerned before them, and examine the premisses and to certifie their opinions herein at the next Sessions. [*S.R.*, 84, 27.].

3. Walter Beemer who had been bound apprentice to John Castle of Marke and Johane his wife to be instructed and brought up in the trade of a tanner to be discharged from his apprenticeship the said John Castle and Johane his wife not having shewn any cause to the contrary to the order made at Bridgwater Sessions last, and the said John Castle havinge given over his said trade and forsaken the place of his habitation.

6. Whereas John Newberry of Brushford was bound to this Sessions for refusinge to receive one John Hodge who was bound apprentice unto him by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the parishe Brushford aforesaid; and the said Newberry now alleadginge that the said Hodge is troubled with the fallinge sicknes and therefore not fitt to bee his apprentice; This Court doth desire that George Lutterell Thomas Siderfyn and John Turbervill Esquiers or anie twoe of them wilbee pleased to call all parties concerned before them, and to examine the premisses And if they find that the said George was soe diseased before his bindinge apprentice unto the said Newberry then the said Newberry to bee discharged from him; but if it appeare unto the said Justices that the said Hodge was not troubled with the said disease before the bindinge then the said Newberry is by consent to take the said Hodge to bee his apprentice and alsoe to pay to such of the Parishoners as now attended this Sessions in this busines such reasonable costs for there Journey as the said Justices shall think fitt.

7. Uppon hearinge the difference betweene the two parishes of Limpsham and West pennard touchinge the settlement of one Dorothy Poole who is now att Limpsham by an order from Robert Morgan Esquier, the said Dorothy to remain settled at Limpsham unless the parishioners of Limpsham shall show good cause to the contrary at the next general Sessions.



8. Uppon readinge the petition of the inhabitants of the parrishe of Weston zoyland thereby shewing That one Thomas Fevian late resident at Chedzoy and one Tryne Baskett late resident in Taunton about a weeke sittence came with their families to Weston where they are privately entertained by their parents who are verie poore and unable to mainteyne them, and soe likely to come chardgeable to the said parishe of Weston ; Referred to the two next justices of the peace to examine and certify at the next general Sessions how they find the same ; and in the meane time the beinge of the said Fevian and Baskett att Weston aforesaid shall not bee interpreted to bee a settlement of them there.

9. Uppon readinge the Petition of Edward Peirce of Doultinge conteyninge certain articles of misdemeanors against George Webb now Keeper of the howse of Correction att Shepton mallett which hee the said Peirce offered to prove unto this Court ; Referred unto John Ashe and John Cary Esq<sup>rs</sup> to examine the same and to certify their opinions herein at the next general Sessions. [S.R., 84, 29, 30, 31.]

10. Whereas Thomas Parsons of Croscombe was att the last Sessions Convicted not onely for sellinge beere without licence but alsoe for breakinge the Assize seaven severall tymes, This Court order that Thomas Ruddock one of the Constables of the Hundred of Whitstone shall levy by distresse of the goods of the said Thomas the some of Eight pounds to bee ymployed to the use of the poore of the said parishe of Croscombe. And for default of satisfaction within three daies next ensueinge the said distresse to bee by the said Constable appraised and sould and the overplus to bee delivered to the said Thomas Parsons accordinge to the forme of the Statute in this case made and provided.

11. Uppon readinge the petition of James Hurd and Thomas Batt Overseers of the poore of the parrishe of Compton Dondon thereby shewing That one Thomas Tucker as Administrator of one Henry Addams late of Compton Dondon deceased enioyeth the goods and other estate of the said Addams amountinge to



the some of One hundred Twentie and nine pounds and yett refuseth to afford anie maintenance to three children of the said Addams att the time of his decease which are like to become chardgeable to the said parishe of Compton Dondon; This Court doth therfore order that the said Tucker shall before the next generall Sessions of the Peace give sufficient securitie to the Overseers of the poore of the said parishe for the dischargd of the same parishe of and from all chardges which may happen by reason of the said parishe Children.

12. Uppon hearinge the matter in difference betweene the parishe of Glaston and Sr Charles Berkeley touchinge payments to the Poore of certen lands of the said Sir Charles, the sole point in question beinge whether the said lands lye within the same parishe of Glaston, This Court therefore and to thend that a true discoverie may bee made of the premises doth now by the consent of both parties order and direct that an Indictment bee preferred this present Sessions by the Agents of the said Sir Charles against Thomas Roode of Glaston for takinge a distresse on the said land for moneyes rated on the same which said Rood shall appeare gratis att the next Sessions and shall then plead to yssue, and thereuppon a tryall shalbee had att the same Sessions Att which time both parties are to come fullie prepared with their witnesses; and in the meane time the said lands are to bee rated as before And it is further ordered by the like course that noe advantadge shal bee hereafter taken by either partie by reason of the viennue or place laid in the Indictment where the distresse was taken.

13. Whereas there are certen differences betweene the inhabitants of Glaston, Streete, Butleigh and Eggerley and the Occupiers of the late inclosed lands in Southmoore otherwise Aldermoore touchinge their rates to the poore the question beinge to which of the places the said new inclosed lands ought to bee rated:

The two next justices of the peace to convene all parties concerned herein before them and to examine the same and certify their opinions at the next general Sessions of the peace to which of the same places the same lands ought to be rated.

14. Whereas there is a difference betweene the inhabitants of Charterhowsehydon uppon Mendipp and the parishe of Blagdon concerninge theire rates to the poore, and uppon readinge of an order of Wells Sessions in the yeere of our Lord 1649, and whereas it is now alleadged on behalfe of the said Inhabitants of Charterhowsehydon that they were never called before anie Justice of the Peace on the said order nor to anie rates by the said parishoners of Blagdon and yett the said parishoners of Blagdon hath rated them and lately taken distresse for the same; John Buckland, Richard Jones and Robert Morgan Esquiers or any two of them to call all parties concerned in the case before them and thoroughly to examine the premisses and end it if they may, or otherwise to certify their opinions at the next general Sessions, and in the meane time noe further distresse to bee taken on anie of the Inhabitants of Charterhowse.

15. Forasmuch as complaint hath been made unto this Court by one Robert Bush and others Inhabitants of the parishe of Witcombe that a rate havinge beene lately made for the collectinge of moneyes both for the defrayinge of charges already disbursed by them and alsoe for other chardges to bee disbursed in and about the repayringe of highwaies and removinge of nuisaunces within the said parishe, severall of the said Inhabitants have refused to pay on the said rate although the same was made, consented unto, and confirmed by all or the most parte of the inhabitants of the said parishe; The two next Justices of the Peace to Witcombe to call such persons before them so refusing to pay their several proportions on the said rate and to deal with them according as upon hearing them the case shall require and the Law and justice shall appertain.

16. Whereas Complaint hath beene made unto this Court by the inhabitants of the parishe of Witcombe neere Bath that a rate haveinge beene heretofore made for the collectinge of moneyes for the reparation of the highwaies and removinge of nusances of and within the said parishe severall of the said inhabitants who were for that purpose appointed Collectors doe keepe moneyes gathered by them or the same rates in their owne hands refusinge to give anie accompt for the same;

The examination of this business referred to the two next justices to convene such persons before them as have collected any money and to render an accompt thereof and in case of refusal to bind such person or persons to the next general Sessions.

17. Uppon readinge the petition of John Emblyn and Josephe Hallstone of the parishe of Chewton and Constables of the Hundred of Chewton aforesaid thereby shewing that a rate haveinge beene lately made within the said parishe for the raising of moneyes to defray the chardges disbursed for securing and conducting of souldiers ympressed for Ireland by the Commissioners of the Militia of this Countie and other chardges in and about the same, Severall of the inhabitants of the said parishe have refused to conforme to the said rate although the same was made, consented unto, and confirmed by the Major parte of the inhabitants of the said parishe Referred to the two next justices to Chewton to call such persons before them so refusing to shew cause why they should not pay their severall proportions of the said rate, to determine the same dispute by an amicable mediation if they can otherwise to certify the true state of the case at the next General Sessions.

18. Whereas an order was lately made by Thomas Latch and Robert Morgan, Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the maintenance of a base child borne of the bodie of Mary the now wife of the said John Buckland whereof John Cooke of Chelvey is the reputed father, this Court doth thinke fitt to respitt its Judgement on the same appeale, and doth order that the said Cooke shall give securitie to appeare att the next General Sessions.

19. It is certified that John Robbins and John Skrine Constables of the hundred of Bath Forum in the said Countie within which Hundred the parish of Witcombe neere Bath in the Countie of Somerset lyeth and Robert Bushe one of the Supervisors of the highwaies of and within the parishe of Witcombe now make oath that all the severall highwaies and nuisaunces for which the inhabitants of the said parishe of Witcombe stand indicted and presented in this Court and for which yssues were retorned against them at the severall Sessions

of the peace att Taunton, Bridgewater and Wells in the three and twentieth yeare of the rayne of the late Kinge Charles are sufficiently amended repaired and removed, wherefore it was thought meete by the Court and soe ordered that the severall Records against the same Inhabitants here for the said high-waies and nuisaunces be discharged and noe further process of this Court to yssue thereon.

20. Whereas there is an Endeavor to charge Christofer Jones of Congersbury Gent to find and provide a sufficient able man in turne to execute the office of Tithingman for the Tithinge of Congersbury Weeke and Puxton, This Court beinge well satisfied with the allegations of the said Mr. Jones doth order and require that John Badman bee sworne Tithingman of the said Tithinge by the Steward of the Leete or Lawday held att Congersbury aforesaid.

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THE GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE FOR THE SAID COUNTIE ATT IVELCHESTER in the same Countie on Tuesday next after the Close of Easter, that is to say the twentie seaventh day of Aprill in the yeare of our Lord God One Thousand six hundred fiftie and twoe, Before John Pyne, William Ceely, Henry Bonner, John Cary, William Cole, Richard Jones, Thomas Gorges and Robert Morgan, Esquiers, Justices assigned to keepe the publique peace.

1. Richard Prigg of Martocke who about nine years since was ordered to pay twelve pence weekly towards the maintenance of a child which order by reason of the late troubles could not bee prosecuted, to give security to pay the sum of Ten pounds for the binding out the said child apprentice before the next justice to Martock, or in default thereof the said next justice is desired to send him to the comon gaole.

2. Uppon readinge the Petition of William Rossiter now in Prison here att Ivelchester thereby shewing that his wife cominge this present Sessions to sollicite on the behalfe of the said



Rossiter fell in travell here and is delivered of a woman child and lieth in a very sadd Condition for want of necessaries This Court doth order that the Overseer of the poore of the Towne of Ivelchester aforesaid shall pay unto the said Rossiters wife the some of Twoe shillings and sixpence a weeke for her maintenance duringe the tyme of her continueance here and the said Overseer of the Poore of the Towne of Ivelchester to have allowaunce thereof on his Accompt.

3. The pension of Thomas Crosse a maymed souldier increased from *2li. 13s. 4d.* to *4li.*, first paymt this Sessions and till further order.

4. Robert Robbins admitted a Pensioner beinge a maymed souldier, and to have *6li. 13s. 4d.* yeerely first payment this Sessions.

5. Whereas there are certen differences betweene the inhabitants of the parishe of North Curry and Robert Wallopp and others trustees of Sir William Portman duringe his minority touchinge the inequality of rates to the poore on certen lands of the said Sir William lyinge within the same parishe; Referred unto the two next justices to North Curry aforesaid unconcerned in the premisses, to determine the same by an amicable mediation if they cann, or otherwise to certifie unto this Court how they find the same att the next Generall Sessions.

6. It is ordered that Deanes Ritherton givinge security before Thomas Gorges Esqr to the Overseers of the poore of the parishe of Bradford for the savinge of the same parishe harmles concerninge a base child lately borne of her body within the same parishe shalbee dischardged out of goale (where now shee remayneth for want of such security) and the said Mr. Gorges is desired uppon such security given to graunte his Certificate thereof to the goaler in order to her enlargement.

7. Whereas there is a difference betweene the parishes of Eastbrent and Limpsham in this countie concerninge the settlement of one John Mason; Thomas Latch and Robert



Morgan Esq<sup>rs</sup> will be pleased to call before them some of the sufficientest men of both the said parishes and examine the said differences and to certifie their opinions at the next General Sessions where the said John Masion ought by Lawe to bee settled.

8. Whereas there are certen differences betweene Sir John Posthumus Sidenham and the inhabitants of the severall hundreds of Tintenhull and Coker touchinge theire rates the sole point in question beinge in which of the said hundreds the lands of the said Sir John lyinge in Hestcōmbe ought to bee rated; The two next Justices to Hestcombe unconcerned in the premisses to determine the same by an amicable mediation if they can or otherwise to certify unto this Court how they find the same, in the meane time the same lands are to pay as now they do.

9. Uppon readinge the humble petition of the inhabitants of North Cadbury in this Countie settinge forth that there beinge a Common Inn and Taverne heretofore sett upp in North Cadbury aforesaid is now continued by one Walter Baker and the said inhabitants further informinge that the said Inn is a publique annoyaunce and in noe wise necessary for travellers and therefore have prayed this Court that the said Inn may bee suppressed, This Court doth thinke fitt and order that the said Walter Baker bee suppressed as to tiplinge further in the said howse, and as touchinge the said Inn unles the said Baker shall shew good cause to the contrary att the next generall Sessions hee havinge timely notice of this order this Court will suppress the same as a publique nusaunce.

10. It is ordered that Margarett Baker givinge sufficient security before Henry Bonner Esq<sup>r</sup> to the Overseers of the Poore of Combe St. Nicholas for the saveinge the same parishe harmles concerninge a base child lately borne shalbee discharged out of gaole.

11. The like order for Johane Howse givinge security before Wm. Ceely Esq<sup>r</sup> for savinge harmles the parishe of Gregory Stoake.

12. Forasmuch as there hath beene observed to have beene a greate neglect in the inhabitants of the Burrough of Somerton as to their serving in Juries summoned for the hundred of Somerton to appeare att the general Sessions of the peace held here for the Countie This Court doth therefore order that the Bayliffe of the said hundred doe from hencefourth warne fower of the said Burrough from time to time to bee of the Jury to bee summoned to serve in this Court for the same Hundred.

13. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by Johane Kidgell of the parishe of Brimpton that shee is over rated by the Raters and inhabitants of the said parish of Brimpton in rates to the Poore of the said parishe Referred for consideration to the two next justices to Brimpton to examine & settle the said rates if they or otherwise to certify the truth thereof as they find the same at the next General Sessions.

14. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the Overseers of the Poore of the parishe of Compton Dundon that a daughter of one Henry Adams late of Compton Dundon aforesaid deceased who was lately bound apprentice to one William Richards of Compton Dundon aforesaid husbandman by one Thomas Tucker administrator of the said Addams is like to become chardgeable to the said parishe This Court doth order that the said Richards and Tucker shall on sight hereof give sufficient security to the said Overseers for the savinge harmles of the said parishe touchinge the said childe, or shew good cause to the contrary att the next Generall Sessions of the Peace.

15. The parishioners of Brimpton having refused to pay to the parishioners of Evill reasonable costs (42s. & 6d.) respecting the settling of one Delamont at Brimpton, the Churchwardens and overseers of Brimpton were ordered to pay the same to the overseers of the poor of Evill.

16. Order confirming the order of John Pyne and John Cary Esq<sup>rs</sup> sending back Thomas Mitchell and his wife from Chiselborow to Middle Chinnock and there to be settled.

17. Uppon complaint made unto this Court by the inhabitants of the parishe of Chiselborough that the tithinge of West Chinnock lying within the same parishe refuse to pay towards the releife of the poore of the said parishe under pretence of being a Chapplery of themselves and payinge to the poore there This Court doth order that the said inhabitants of the said tithinge shall from hencefourth pay towards the releife of the said poore of the said parishe unles uppon notice of this order given unto them or some of them the said inhabitants of the said tithinge of West Chinnocke shew good cause to the contrary att the next General Sessions.

18. Uppon readinge of an order of Wells Sessions last whereby the difference betweene the inhabitants of the severall parishes of Glaston, Streete, and Butleigh, and the occupiers of the late inclosed lands in Southmoore *als.* Aldermore touchinge their rates to the poore were referred to the twoe next Justices of the peace of this County, the question beinge within which of the said parishes the said new inclosed lands ought to bee rated, and forasmuch as Robert Morgan and John Cary Esq<sup>rs</sup> beinge the twoe next Justices to the said parishes have informed this Court that they cannot descend to a decision of the said matter unles they had power to examine Witnesses on oath, this Court therefore and to the end that a true discovery may bee made of the premisses doth now direct that an Indictment by consent of all parties bee preferred this present Sessions by William Morse of Glaston against John Talbott of Butleigh and Edward Taylor of Streete for distreyninge a cow of his the said Morse att St. Johns Glaston which said Talbott and Taylor shall by the like consent ymediately appeare and traverse the same Indictment, uppon which a tryall shall bee had att Bridgewater Sessions next att which tryall the takinge of the said distresse and all other matters in yssue savinge as to the place where the said Cow was taken are by the like consent of the said parties to bee confessed and the onely point to bee putt in yssue to the said Jury shalbee within which of the said three parishes the said new inclosed lands called Southmoore *als.* Aldermore lye, and accordinge as a verdict shall passe herein this Court will determine as to the ratinge of the said new

inclosed lands; and it is further ordered by the like consent that noe writt or writts of Certiorari shalbe had or brought for the removinge of the said Indictment or anie Proceedings had or to bee had thereuppon. And to the end that the said tryall may bee the more indifferent, it is ordered by the like consent that the Sherriffe of this County shall att the said next Sessions to bee held att Bridgewater retorne the Jury to try the same yssue in the presence of twoe parishoners of each of the said three parishes.

19. This Court beinge informed that it is generally apprehended by severall Hundreds in this Countie that the late Act of Oblivion and generall pardon doth make Delinquents capeable to bee Constables and Tithingmen and to execute other offices in this Common Wealth and uppon that Accompt choose them into Offices and in particuler that there is an intent within the Hundred of Brewton to choose William Walter formerly sequestred as a Delinquent to bee Tithingman within the Tithinge of Redlinch aforesaid; this Court to prevent the same and other elections of this nature doth refer all persons concerned herein to the perusal of the said Act of Oblivion whereby it is evident that the same Act doth not warrant any such elections, in which respect this Court doth in particular prohibite the choosinge of the said Walter or anie other formerly a Delinquent against the Parliament to bee Tithingman of Redlinch aforesaid.

20. Final order that John Cooke of Chelvey the reputed father shall pay towards the relief &c. of a child of Mary Buckland now the wife of John Buckland of the parish of Congresbury.

21. Uppon hearinge the matter in dispute twixt the parishe of Ditchcatt, Tithinge of Hatspenn, and the parishe of Pitcombe, touchinge the settlement of one Corpe his wife and children. This Court doth thinke fitt to respitt the determination thereof untill Bridgewater Sessions next &c, And in the meane time the said Corpe his wife and children to remaine

where now they are. And forasmuch as this Court is now informed that the said Corpe lived for the space of Twentie yeeres att least in the parishe of Sutton Crothorne (Montis) ymedietely before his cominge to Hatspenn whereby Sutton may bee concerned as to the settlement of him It is further ordered that the inhabitants of the said Tithinge of Hatspenn shall give notice to the said parishonrs of Sutton that they bee att the said next Sessions at Bridgewater then and there to attend likewise to give an accompt of the said Corpe being at Sutton.

22. Uppon readinge the petition of Walter Lambert thereby shewing that severall amerçiements amountinge to the some of fower pounds and tenn shillings lately cominge forth in chardge out of the publique Exchequer to Alexander Pym Esq<sup>r</sup> late Sheriffe of this County against the inhabitants of the parishe of Sandford Orcas, the same amerçiement were all levied on the petitioners Tenant beinge one of the same parishe by distresse of his goods puttinge him to the chardge of five shillings more of which said some of fower pounds and tenn shillings and five shillings the rest of the inhabitants of the same parishe refuse to pay and beare theire severall proportions; the Constables Chùrchwardens and Overseers of the poor with some other persons of the same parish to make an equal rate charging the inhabitants proportionably towards the reimbursing of the said Tenant of the said Petitioner.

23. Giles Strangewaies Esq<sup>r</sup> chosen Treasurer of the maymed Souldiers of this County for the next ensuing year in the place and roome of George Luttrell Esq<sup>r</sup> the late Treasurer.

24. Robert Morgan Esq<sup>r</sup> chosen Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Eastern division and Thomas Englishe Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Western division of this County.

The Grand Jurie beinge desired by ye Co<sup>rt</sup> to consider of wages for laborers artificers handicrafts and others :



	<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Men servants <i>per ann.</i> ... ..	04	10	00
Maid servants <i>per ann.</i> ... ..	02	00	00
Mowers <i>per diem</i> findinge themselves meate and drinke ... ..	00	01	08
Mowers at meate and drinke ... ..	00	00	09
Men makeing hay per diem findinge them- selves ... ..	00	01	00
Men makeing hay att meat and drinke ...	00	00	06
Women makeing hay finding themselves ...	00	00	08
Women at meat and drinke ... ..	00	00	04
Men finding themselves at corne harvest ...	00	01	04
Women finding themselves ... ..	00	01	00
Men at meat and drinke ... ..	00	00	08
Women at meat and drinke ... ..	00	00	06
Masons, carpenters, and tylers finding them- selves ... ..	00	01	02
Masons carpenters and tylers at meat and drinke ... ..	00	00	08
Threshers and Dykers finding themselves...	00	01	00
Threshers and Dykers at meat and drinke	00	00	06

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THE GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR  
THE SAID COUNTY ATT THE CASTLE OF TAUNTON in the  
same County on Tuesday next after the feast of the  
translation of St. Thomas the Martyr (that is to say) the  
Thirteenth day of July in the yeere of our Lord God One  
Thousand six hundred fiftie and Twoe Before John Pyne,  
William Ceely, Henry Bonner, Thomas Siderfin and John  
Cary Esquiers.

1. Uppon consideration had of the condition of James Gill  
and Thomas Dudderidge maymed souldiers, it is ordered that  
there severall pensions of 4*li.* a peece. bee advaunced to 5*li.* a  
peece and the Treasurer for the maymed souldiers is to make  
payment thereof accordingly.

2. It is ordered that all processe of this Court against the Inhabitants of Williton Freem<sup>n</sup>s in the County for nuisaunces and nonrepaire of highwaes bee stayed untill Wells Sessions next, and then and from thencefourth all presentments and Indictments against the said Inhabitants for nuisaunces and nonrepaire of highwaies bee discharged in case oath shalbee then made that the same nuisaunces are removed and highwaies well repaired.

The like order for the Inhabitants of Berkely and Standerweeke, Meare, Chedder, Axbridge, Mutchelney, Compton Durvile, Publow, Ninehead, Ryson (?), and Elme.

3. Uppon Consideration had of the poore Condition of John Elliatt of Michaell Creech in this County who hath beene a souldier in the Parliament service ever since theis late warrs and hath received severall dangerous wounds in his body to his great losse and damage and is in greate distresse for want of a place of habitation hee haveinge a wife and twoe small children, and the said John Elliatt haveinge gotten the approbation both of the Trustees of Mr. Cuff lord of the Mannor of Michaell Creech aforesaid alsoe of the inhabitants of the said Parish of Michaell Creech for the erectinge of a howse for himselfe and family in Creech Heathfeild parcel of the waste of the said parishe to hold to himselfe for his life and afterwards to Grace his wife for her life ; it is assented unto and ordered by this Court that the said John Elliatt shall have liberty to erect and build a Cottage on the said wast ground for the habitation of himselfe and family and afterwards the same shalbee converted to the use of such other poore people of the said parishe of Michaell Creech as shalbee there placed in accordinge to the Statute in this behalfe made and provided.

4. License is given and graunted to Hugh Pickford of Nunny in the said County husbandman to keepe a Common Alehowse or Tiplinge howse to sell and vtter beere and ale to retayle in his now dwellinge howse att Nunny aforesaid, hee the said Hugh Pickford duely observinge the Assize in this behalfe to bee observed and all other rules restriccons and things which by the lawes and statutes of this Common wealth an Alehowse-keeper or Tipler is bound to keepe and observe. All which hee

is bound by Recognizance to perform, This License to continue in force duringe one whole yeere next cominge & noe longer.

5. Uppon readinge the Petition of George Burrowes of Taunton a maymed souldier in pension in this County whereby hee desireth a full yeeres pay before hand beinge five pounds and payeable quarterly (to witt) midsomer, Michns Christmas and our Lady day to enable himselfe to prosecute att law which now he hath dependinge for a small Tenemente and lands which hee is advised doth belonge unto him; This Court doth conceive the same desire reasonable and order the same accordingly, the said George findinge one sufficient surety att least to become bound to the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers of this County that in case the said George shall dye within one yeere to bee accompted from 24<sup>th</sup> day of June now last past then to repay soe much of the said five pounds pension as shall not have beene growne due to him the said George in his life tyme.

6. Warrant for the apprehension of Suzan Willy late of Merryott singlewoman [who] hath pretended that shee now goeth with child begotten by John Bartlett, but absenteth herselfe from her habitation runninge from place to place.

7. Upon the information of Richard Somers and Richard Gatcombe Overseers of the poor of the parish of Bridgwater, the administrators of the father of a child, ordered to pay £20, the residue of £33, to be employed towards its keeping and maintenance.

8. Uppon the readinge the Petition of Amy Stibbes of Mountague in this County spinster thereby shewing that shee havinge beene a servant to one Richard Hodder of Mountague aforesaid by the space of eleaven yeeres and more att the yeerely wages of forty shillings and hath beene out of his service by the space of one yeere and upwards and there is due to her for the remainder of her wages five pounds which hee denyes to pay unto the petitioner; Referred to the next Justice of the peace to Mountague to call the said Hodder before him to

answer the premisses, and in case he shall refuse to make payment to the said petitioner of the said wages remaining due to her to bind the said Hodder to answer the same at the next General Sessions.

9. Uppon readinge of the peticon of Emblyn Presseman of Taunton James thereby shewing that shee beinge lately a Covenante servant with one Thomas Poole of Cheddon Fitzpayne in this Countie who promised her nine pence a weeke for a whole yeere besides meate drinke and lodginge and that shee faithfully served him by the space of 34 weekes and that the said Poole turned her out of doores in the middest of wynter not payinge her due wages and that there is 18s. 10d. due to her which the said Poole refuseth to pay; The matter of the Petition referred to the next Justice of the Peace to call the said Poole before him. [Similar order to the last.]

10. Uppon readinge of the Petition of Henry Fowler of Chard attested under the hands of the Mayor of Chard and severall other Inhabitants of the said parishe thereby shewing that the said Fowler hath faithfully served the Parliament for tenn yeeres past whereof seaven yeeres in the Regiment of Sir Hardesse Waller and that hee was dangerously wounded in the Thigh att the late reducinge of Jersey Island and nott as yett cured whereby hee is disabled to work att his trade and is in want; it is therefore ordered that the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers shall forthwith pay unto the said Henry Fowler towards cure of his wound the some of xls<sup>s</sup>., which is to bee allowed unto the said Treasurer uppou his Accompt.

10. Uppon Complaint made vnto this Court by George Upham one of the parishoners of Wiveliscombe in the County aforesaid that John Browne, Collector of the Greenewax to Alexander Pym Esquier late Sherriffe of the County aforesaid hath lately levied of the goods of the said George Upham the some of xxx<sup>s</sup>., as the yssues of the lands of the Inhabitants of Wiveliscombe aforesaid Estreated into the Court of Exchequer, and the said Inhabitants of Wiveliscombe aforesaid have refused to satisfy unto the said George Upham the severall proportions

of the same *xxs*/. The inhabitants of Wiveliscombe to make a rate for the raising of the same *20s*/. upon the several parishioners of Wiveliscombe for reimbursing the said George Upham.

12. Walter Baker of North Cadbury whose Inn or Tavern was ordered to be suppressed as a publique Nuisance at Ivelchester Sessions unless he could show good cause to the contrary at the present Sessions, to have time untill the next general Sessions in reason it doth not appeare due notice was given on the last order.

13. Uppon the Complaint of severall particuler persons parishoners of the parishe of Carhampton that several yssues out of the Court of Exchequer have bene levied by the Grenewax gatherer of the said Countie uppon the lands of the same persons which were chardged uppon the lands of the said Inhabitants of Carhampton; Order for a general rate.

14. Phillipp Welsher and his wife and one child to be absolutely settled at Clapton, and Porlock to be wholly freed and discharged from them.

25. Uppon readinge the petition of the Constables Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the parishe of Taunton James [sic] in this County thereby shewing that the same parishe is a poore parishe and full of poore people havinge 24 parishes neere adjacent rated towards there maintenance besides other guifts and legacies and besides the most sufficient men of the parishe are highly rated and diverse strangers are newly come into the same parishe and like to bee chardgeable to the same, the names of which strangers are Edward Cardiffe John Halestaffe, Willm Dodd, ffrauncis Bounty and Roger Keely with there wives and families and did therefore desire this Court to make some order therein for the removall of the same strangers; Referred to the next Justice of the Peace to Taunton to make such order herein for the Petitioners relief as shall be agreeable to law.

16. Uppon readinge the petition of Richard Hillard of Taunton who was a longe time a souldier in the States service



and hath received many wounds in his body in the same service This Court doth Order that in case the said Richard Hillard shall att the next Sessions produce a Certificate from his Captaine of his beinge wounded in the States service, And that hee is maymed, that then hee shall bee considered as a maymed souldier and received into pension. [S.R., 84, 3.]

17. One Julian Gully and her child who are now att North Petherton, and uppon Consideration of all that hath beene said and alleadged on either side, to stand settled at North Curry.

18. Uppon readinge the petition of Richard David who thereby sheweth that hee beinge ympressed in the moneth of May 1651 for the service of Ireland was there wounded in the service of the Parliament, and he therefore desireth to bee admitted a pensioner of this County This Court for the better satisfaction of the wounds of the said David doth referre the examination thereof unto Mr Lashbrooke of Ilminster who is desired to search the body of the said David and to certify what wounds the said David hath received and for what consequence the same is, to thend this Court may bee sufficiently armed to determyne whether the same desire of the said Richard David bee fitt to bee graunted or not.

19. Uppon readinge the petition of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the parishe of Upton on the behalfe of themselves and the rest of the Inhabitants of the said parishe thereby shewinge that about Christmas last past there was a base child borne of the body of Elizabeth Sully the daughter of one Thomas Sully in the dwellinge howse of the said Thomas in Upton aforesaid And that one Henry Stockham of Timbercomb was the reputed father of the said base child and that the said Elizabeth after shee had recovered strength fledd away and cannott bee found and the said Thomas ever since the departure of his said daughter had kept and mainteyned the said Child att his owne Cost vntill Sunday the fowerth day of this instant July att which tyme the said Thomas brought the said base child into the Church of Upton, and therefore desired that the said Thomas Sully the father of the said Elizabeth might relieve the

said base child Ordered that the said Thomas Sully the grandfather on the Mothers side as aforesaid to the said base child shall mainteyne the said base child untill the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for the Countie and afterwards, unles hee shall att the next Sessions shew good cause to the contrary.

20. Whereas Robert Godfrey of the parishe of Chedzoy was bound over by Recognizance taken before Sr Thomas Wroth Kn<sup>t</sup> one of the Justices of the Peace of this County for refusinge to take an apprentice placed to him by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poore of the same parishe, Now uppon hearinge of the said Godfrey and uppon Consideration had of his estate which (as hee alleadgeth) is but small This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that the said Godfrey shall within a fortnight after this present Sessions pay unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore or one of them for and towards the maintenance of the said apprentice the some of forty shillings, and in soe doinge bee freed from the said apprentice And in default of such it is ordered that hee shall take the said apprentice soe placed to him and provide for him accordinge as by lawe a master of his ranke and condition ought to doe in the like case.

21. Uppon readinge of the petition of Henry Ricard of the Tithinge of West Hatch in this County thereby shewinge that att a Court Leete or Lawday held at North Curry in the said County one William Edwards gent. who liveth in Gloucestersheire was by the Jury there in respect of a Tenement hee hath in Westhatch aforesaid now in the holdinge of his tenant presented to find a sufficient Tithingman of Westhatch aforesaid for one yeere beginninge at Michaelmas last; and thereuppon the said Court did injoyne the said William Edwards uppon a payne to provide a sufficient man to bee sworne in the said office to doe the same, which he hath not done, although hee had notice of the said order by the said Tenant by meanes whereof the petitioner who served in the said office for the yeere before cannott bee discharged from the same but is compelled to continue in the same to his greate trouble and cost, which burthen hee cannot beare beinge a very poore man and therefore desired the order

of this Court that hee might bee paid for his paynes and expenses which he had been and should bee att in the execution of his said Office; Referred to the next Justices of the Peace to West Hatch to call the tenant of the said Mr. Edwards before them to shew cause why the said Mr. Edwards should not find a tithing-man according as by the said Court Leete he was enjoyned and to certify how they find the same att the Next General Sessions.

22. Uppon readinge the petition of William Chaplyn of Taunton James thereby shewing that John Chaplyn brother of the said William dyed leavinge a wife and child behind which wife dyed of the plague and the child named Nicholas was left to be mainteyned by the parishe of Taunton James aforesaid, and that one Edward Drake of Culliton in the County of Devon Attorney att Lawe marryinge the sister of the said John Chaplins wife received a legacy of 50*li.* which was formerly given to the said John Chaplins wife and uppon her death ought to have come to the said Child and the same deteyneth from the said child, this Court doth therefore desire that Sr John Younge Knt and Colonell William Fry twoe of the Justices of the peace of the saed County of Devon will convene the said Edward Drake before them and take such security for the said 50*li.* and the interest thereof for the benefitt of the said Child, or otherwise to doe therein as to Justice shall apperteyne.

23 Richard Hilbard admitted to pensioner, and to have 40*s.* a yeere from the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers.

24. George Crosse admitted a pensioner, and to have 20*s.* a yeere from the Treasurer of maymed souldiers.

25. Uppon readinge of the petition and uppon complaint made unto this Court by the parishioners of the parish of Linge that one Thomas Ryall with his wife and many small Children came lately into the same parishe from the parishe of Middlezoy where the said Thomas his wife and children have lived for three or fower yeeres peaceably and without interruption of the parishe, and it appearinge to this Court that Linge within one moneth after the cominge of the said Ryall thither did present him att a Private Sessions held at Taunton before Colonell John Pyne and

Colonell John Gorges twoe of the Justices of the peace of this County who graunted a warrant for the bringing of the said Ryall before them, this Court in that respect doth declare that the cominge and stay of the said Ryall with his wife and children there shall not be interpreted to bee any settlement of them there.

26. Uppon readinge the petition of Sarah Laurence of Whitechurch in the Countie of Salopp thereby sheweinge that shee cominge from her home to Stogursey in this Countie and beinge there searchinge after one Mary Harris her fellow servant who had stollen a box of Lynnen from the Petitioner and the petitioner not findinge the said Mary was invited to the howse of one Arthure Morgan of Stogursey aforesaid where shee was enter-tayned and offered service and stayed there about twoe dayes att which tyme some of the howsehold of the said Arthure Morgan pretended they had lost some gould and that they suspected the petitioner to have hadd it and then sent for a Constable but they of the howse caused the petitioners Clothes (which were very good clothes) to bee putt of [sic] which they possessed themselves of and doe keepe away from her, and gave her some ould clothes in the steed thereof ; This Court doth desire the twoe next Justices of the peace to Stogursey aforesaid to call before them the said Arthure Morgan and all others concerned herein and to examine the same business and end the same if they cann, otherwise to certify how they find the same att the next Generall Sessions.

27. Uppon readinge of the petition of Emanuell Micoe of Taunton James thereby shewing that James Kevill *als* Templer of Taunton James aforesaid doth keepe a Common Bakehowse there havinge noe convenient place to putt his fewell in and that he putteth it parte in his dwellinge howse and parte in the court neere to the dwellinge howse of the Petitioner and others to the greate feare of the petitioners and others of greate damage which may fall by fire, the said Kevill *als* Templer beinge a distempered and ill liveinge man ; the matter referred to the two next Justices of the peace to Taunton, to call the said Kevill *als* Templer before them, to examine the matter of the said Petition and to do therein as the cause shall require.



28. James Cade of Stogumber beinge duly elected Constable for the West Division of the Hundred of Williton Freemanors who had refused to be sworn ordered forthwith to attend Thomas Siderfyn Esquier to be sworn, and in case of refusal the said Mr. Siderfyn to commit him to the Common Gaol until he shall take the oath of Constable, unles the said James shall submitt to become bound with sureties to appeare att the next Assizes.

29. Complaint having been made within one month to John Gorges Esqr after the coming of George Cardiffe his wife and one child, William Tadd with his wife and three children, Thomas Bounty and his wife greate with child, John Holostaffe and his wife, Roger Keely and his wife and one child, who had lately come into the parish of Taunton James ; it was declared that the coming and stay of the said several persons shall not be interpreted to be a settlement of them there.

30. Uppon Consideration had of the Petition of Johane Williams of East Pennard in this County subscribed by the Constables Overseers of the poore Churchwardens and other inhabitants of the same Parishe thereby settinge forth That the petitioner was left destitute of howse and home by her husband Roger Williams who went from her for debt about St. Andrewes tyde last was twoe years, sithence which tyme with three small children shee hath dwelt in an hired howse out of which shee is now putt and is become harbourles and the said Inhabitants beinge willinge shee should [have] a howse and a waste peece of ground belonginge to them and did therefore desire the approbation and order of this Court therein ; And uppon readinge of a writinge under the hand and seale of Robert Harbyn Esquier Lord of the Mannor of East Pennard aforesaid certifyinge this Court of his givinge way to the petitioner for her erectinge of a howse in Huxton Greene within the said Mannor of East Pennard and desiringe the Confirmation thereof by this Court ; it is assented unto and ordered by this Court that the said Johane Williams shall have liberty to erect and build a Cottage on the said waste ground for the habitation of herselfe and her children and afterwards the same shalbee converted to the use of such other of the poore people of the said parishe of East



Pennard as shalbee there placed in accordinge to the Statute in this case made and provided.

31. Uppon readinge of the petition of James Tutt a sick souldier and Consideration had of his estate; it is ordered that Mr. Samuuell Whetcombe doe afforde him some competent releife out of the moneyes remayninge in his hands for releife of souldiers for which this order shalbee his dischargde.

32. Uppon readinge of a Certificate from Mr. Thomas Quarrell and hearinge of Captaine William Gill on oath it appeareth that Richard Stockman of Taunton St James lately a souldier under the Comaund of the said Capt. Gill in the Middle seige against Taunton was there shott and wounded in his shoulder and is by the said wound maymed, this Court doth therefore thinke fitt and soe order that the said Richard Stockman shalbee enterteyned as a maymed souldier of this County and shall from this tyme forewards receive a yeerely pension of fower pounds by the yeere from the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers of this County to bee continued untill this Court shall take further order to the contrary.

33. Uppon consideration had of the condition of Christian Marks widow whose husband was slayne in the Parliaments service this Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers for this County doe pay unto the said Christian the some of 20s<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. towards her present releife in which respect and for that shee is of a competent ability to live of herselfe and the maymed souldiers desiringe releife very numerous, shee is not to have or seeke any further releife from the Treasury of this County.

34. This Court doth declare all power and authority by them given to Ralph Mullens of Sherborne to bee a Marshall in this County to bee void and null, and doth order that hee bee paid by the Treasurers of Hospitalls fower pounds in full of all arreres of his sallary unles it shall appeare that hee hath received any sallary for this last yeere.

35. Uppon readinge of the Certificate of Captaine Arthure Younge that one Nicholas Small had beene a souldier in his Company in the Regiment of Col. Barksteed and uppon hearinge of William Bennett now sworne in Court that the said Nicholas Small duringe the tyme hee was in actuall service of the Parliamēt in the clearinge of his Muskett by commaund was maymed insoemuch as hee is now in a very distressed Condition ; the said Nicholas Small shall be enterteyned as a maymed souldier of the county and from this time receive a yerely pension of fower pounds by the year, to be continued until this Court shall take further order to the contrary, the first payment whereof is to be made now as of Midsomer Quarter last.

36. Whereas att Taunton Sessions in the yeere of our Lord 1651 : an Indictment was preferred against the Inhabitants of the parishe of West Mounckton etc. for not placinge of rayles on the outside of a certen Causeway lyinge within the same parishe and adjoyninge to a common highway leadinge from the Towne of Taunton to the Towne of Bridgewater uppon which Indictment the said Inhabitants appeared and pleaded not guilty which yssue att this Sessions hath beene tryed and verdict passed against the same Inhabitants ; But forasmuch as it appeared uppon evidence att the said tryall that tyme out of mind there hath not beene any rayles uppon the same causeway, this Court doth respitt its Judgement on the said verdict and doth desire the twoe next Justices of the peace to West Mounckton aforesaid to view the same way whether it bee necessary that rayles should bee placed there or not, and to certify there opinions herein att the next generall Sessions [all proceedings in the meantime to be stayed].

37. John Cateby the younger of Croscombe who without authority or licence had presumed to keep a common tippingg house at Croscombe and who was convicted uppon his own confession at this present Sessions, to have a distress levied on his goods for the sum of twenty shillings by the Constables of the Hundred of Whitstone ; And if hee shall not have sufficient goods whereby the said Twenty shillings uppon him imposed may bee levied or shall not pay the same twenty shillings within

six daies after his said conviction that then this Court comitts the said Cateby to bee openly whipped for his said offence accordynge to the Statute.

38. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court by the inhabitants of the parishe of Hillfarrence that Jeffery Bennett, John Bremblecombe, Robert Wollans, Thomas Basse, George Smallbridge, Thomas Commens, Charles Curtis, and John Comens, are lately come into the same parishe of Hillfarrence from severall parts. This Court doth declare that the cominge and stay of the said severall persons att Hillfarrence aforesaid shall not bee interpreted to bee a settlement of them there.

39. Uppon full hearinge and debate of the differences betweene the severall parishes of High Ham and Charleton Mackerell touchinge the settlement of one Fraunces Russell the daughter of John Russell deceased The said Fraunces to be settled at Charleton Mackerell until the next General Sessions and at all times unless the said parish of Charleton Mackerell shall show good cause to the contrary at the next Generall Sessions.

40. Licence is given and graunted unto Symon Beere of the Borrough of Milverton to keepe a common Alehouse or tipling house, and to sell and vtter beere and ale by retayle in his now dwelling house att Milverton aforesaid.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTIE ATT BRIDGEWATER in the same Countie on Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michaell tharchangell that is to say the fiveth day of October in the yeere of our Lord God One Thousand six hundred fifty and twoe Before Henry Rolle cheife Justice assigned to hold pleas before the Keepers of the Libertie of England by authority of Parliament in the upper Bench, Thomas Siderfin, John Turberville, William Cole, Robert Morgan, John Pyne, John Gorges, Richard Jones, William Ceely, Thomas Gorges, John Cary, Giles Strangewaies, and John Buckland Esquires, etc.

1. Uppon readinge the petition of Christofer Phelpes thereby shewinge that hee hath received a shott in the Parliaments service whereby hee is maymed, This Court doth referr the Examination of the trueth of the said petition unto the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers of this Countie, and in case it shall appeare that the said petitioner is maymed, to allow him such reasonable pension as the said Treasurer shall thinke fitt, which shalbee allowed on the said Treasurers accompt the said pension to continue till further order made by this Court.

2. The like order for Thomas Scorrier, Edward Gibbes, and Amos Barber.

3. Uppon readinge the petition of Thomas Clarke and uppou consideration had of his condition, This Court doth thinke fitt to allow him a pension of fower pounds by the yeere to bee paid to him by the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers for this Countie quarterly, the first quarters pay to bee paid to him this present Sessions, the said pension to continue till further order made by this Court.

4. The like order for John Biddle for 40s. by the yeere.

5. The like order for Richard Davis for 4*li*. by the yeere.

6. Uppon the petition of Mary Jenkins of Bridgewater widow whose husband was slayne in the service of the Parliament in the second seige laid by the late Kings Army against Taunton ; the said Mary Jenkins at the present Sessions to receive 20*sh*. The said Mary Jenkins is not to expect any further releife for the future from this Court.

7. The Order of William Axford made last Sessions is revived and made an order of this Sessions.

8. Uppon readinge of the petition of Thomas Southey now Constable of the Borough of Milverton Shewing that hee was by order of Bridgewater Sessions last sworne Constable of the said Borough for the yeere now last past which office hee hath served, and therefore did present unto this Court the names of

three persons fitt to serve the said office for the yeere ensueinge (viz.: Lewes Parrishe the elder, Robert Parrishe, and Robert Chick; John Turberville and Thomas Gorges Esquires or either of them to consider which of the said three persons so nominated is fittest to serve the said office, and to swear the same person for the due execution of the same office accordingly.

9. Uppon readinge the petition of diverse of the Inhabitants of the parishe of Kingston whereby they desire that John Stone might bee putt forth of a certen howse built by the inhabitants of the said parishe wherein the said Stone now dwelleth, and that one Edward Penny might bee placed in his roome, and uppon hearinge other of the said parishoners of the said parishe who desired that the said Stone may bee continued in the same howse, this Court havinge considered of all that hath beene alleadged on either side doth order that the said John Stone shall betwixt this and our Lady Day next remove from the said Howse and that the said Edward Penny shalbee placed into the said howse by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the said parishe, and that in the meane tyme hee the said John Stone shall not ympaire or deface the said howse in any parte thereof.

10. Uppon the petition of William Hurston of North Curry thereby shewing that one John Henburrow a poore child of North Curry was heretofore placed by the parishoners and Overseers of the Poore of the said parishe an apprentice with one Mr. Henry Sealy, and about a yeere since was againe bound unto one Henry Axon (both of them men of greate estates) and that both of them uppon complaint by them made that the said child was decrepite in his limbes and not able to serve, put him of [*sic*], and that the said Henry Axon beinge now one of the Overseers of the poore of the said parishe for this present yeere hath putt the said child uppon the said William Hurston who is a poore man and not able to keepe an apprentice; William Ceely Esquier &c. to examine whether the said John Henburrough bee disabled to serve as an apprentice and to Certify how hee finds the same at the next General Sessions; but this Court doth order that the discharge of the said Henburrough from the service of the said William Hurston bee in the meane time suspended.



11. Uppon readinge the petition of Ralph Frauncis a carpenter thereby shewing that hee beinge requested to repaire a certen woodden bridge called Stanmore bridge was promised by tenn severall parishes neere adjacent (att whose charge the said Bridge ought to bee repayred) for his paynes the some of threescore pounds yett severall of the same inhabitants refuse to pay their proporcons; the Examination of the truth of the said petition referred to the two next justices of the peace &c. to the said Bridge who are desired to call parties refusing to pay before them, and in case they cannot determine the same by an "Amicall mediation" to certify how they find the same to stand at the next General Sessions.

12. Uppon readinge of the petition of Edward Coleford tithingman of Enmore shewing that one Agnes Barrington beinge committed to the Common goale of this Countie for felony the petitioner was inforced to gett a stronge guard to convey her thither which cost him xxxiiij<sup>s</sup>/. iiij<sup>d</sup>.; the two next Justices of the peace to Enmore to examine the charges and to make such order for the reimbursing of the said Coleford herein as shall be agreeable to law.

13. Uppon Consideration of Elias Jennings of Hilfarrence who hath a wife & 7 small children and is in greate distresse for want of a place of habitation and the said Elias Jennings havinge gotten the consent of the most parte of the parishoners of the said parishe of Hilfarrence and alsoe of Elias Booby lord of the Mannor of Hilfarrence for the erectinge of a howse for himselfe and family in the highway called by the name of the Vrare in Hilfarrence aforesaid parcell of the wasts of the said parishe to hold for his life It is assented unto and ordered by the said Court that the said Elias Jennings shall have liberty to erect and build a Cottage on the said waste ground; And after his decease the same cottage shalbee converted to the use of such poore people of the said parishe of Hilfarrence as shalbee there placed in.

14. Whereas Thomas Bindon of Old Cleeve was bound over by recognizaunce taken before Thomas Siderfin Esq<sup>r</sup> for

refusinge to take an apprentice placed to him by the said parishe forasmuch as it is alleadged by the said Bindon that the said apprentice hath beene accused for theft and to bee a person of lewd behaviour; The said Bindon shall within a fortnight after this present Sessions pay unto the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the said parish for and towards binding out of the said apprentice the sum of forty shillings, and in so doing the said Bindon shall be freed from taking the said apprentice.

15. Uppon readinge of an order of Taunton Sessions last whereby one Fraunces Russell was removed from High Ham to Charleton Mackerell and there settled; and yett they [the Overseers of the poore of Charleton Mackerell] have neither paid the said costs nor shewen cause to the contrary at this present Sessions accordinge to the said Order but stand in contempt of this Court; Warrant for the apprehension of the said Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Charleton and them to convey to the Common Goale, until they shall consent to go before some Justice of the Peace and there become bound by recognizance to appear at the next General Sessions.

16. Uppon Consideration had of the Condition of the Wife of Thomas Franckombe, which said Thomas Franckombe is a pensioner of this Countie and hath allowed to him 4*l*. yeerely which is paid quarterly and is now in Ireland in the service of the Parliament and hath left behind him his said wife and 2 children; the said yearly pension payable to the said Franckombe to be paid unto his said wife towards the maintenance of herself and children until further order herein made by this Court.

17. Forasmuch as Complaint hath beene made that the Bridge called Gawbridgebowe lyeinge within the parishe of [ ] in this County is in greate decay for want of reparation, which bridge hath beene alwaies accompted a County bridge; Four next Justices of the Peace to examine whether the same bridge bee a County bridge or not, and if they shall find the same to be a county bridge that then they will take course for the repairing of the same bridge and defrayinge the charges thereof out of the moneyes remayninge in the hands of the

Treasurers of this Countie appointed for that purpose, or otherwise to make a rate for the repayinge thereof.

18. The like order for Symondsburrow bridge lyinge in Exmore in this Countie.

19. The Order for West Mounckton made att Taunton Sessions last is now revived by order of this Court and made an order as of this Sessions.

20. The differences between the inhabitants of the parish of North Curry and Robert Wallopp Esquier and others trustees of Sir William Portman during his minority touching the inequallity of the rates to the poor on certain lands of the said Sir William lying within the same parish referred to the two next Justices of the Peace to North Curry to determine the same by an amicable mediation if they can, or otherwise to certify unto the next General Sessions how they find the same.

21. The order for East Brent and Lymphsham made att Ivelchester Sessions last is now revived by order of this Court and made an order of this Sessions.

22. It is ordered that all yssues forfected and which shalbee forfected by the Inhabitants of Bridgewater for nusaunces and non repaire of highwaies before Ivelchester Sessions next bee stayed till after the same Sessions; and then and from thencefourth all the said yssues and all presentments against the inhabitants of Bridgewater aforesaid for nusaunces and non repaire of highwaies shalbee vacated and discharged In case oath shalbee then made that the same nusaunces are removed and highwaies well repaired.

23. Upon hearinge the matter in dispute twixt the parishes of Ditchett, Tithinge of Hattspenn, and parishes of Pitcombe and Sutton Crothorne (Montis), touching the settlement of one Corpe his wife and children; and uppon Consideration had of all that hath beene said on all sides, This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order and declare that the said Corpe his wife and children to bee and stand settled att Ditchett where the said Corpe now is,

and the Tithingman of the said Tithinge of Hatspenn is required forthwith on sight of this order to convey the wife and children of the said Corpe from Hattspenn to Ditchcatt aforesaid there to be settled with the said Corpe, any former order notwithstanding.

24. Uppon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Pensford, and Tithinges of Publowe and Belluton in the said Countie touchinge a certen stone bridge lyinge within the said Towne of Pensford over a certen river runninge there called Chew, thereby shewinge that the greatest parte of the same bridge was by floods beaten downe the laste wynter, and forasmuch as the said towne of Pensford is a great thorough faire it is not certenly knowne who ought to repaire the said bridge; This Court doth desire the fower next Justices of the peace to Pensford aforesaid in case it cannott bee discovered by whome the said bridge ought to bee repaired, to take care for the repayinge of the said bridge and defrayinge the charges thereof out of the moneyes remayninge in the hands of the Treasurers of this Countie appointed for that purpose or otherwise to make a rate for the repayinge thereof accordinge to the Statute in that case made and provided.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD  
FOR THE SAID COUNTIE ATT WELLS in the same Countie  
on Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany (That is to  
say) the Eleaventh Day of January in the yeere of our Lord  
God One Thousand six hundred fifty and twoe (three),  
before William Ceely, John Buckland, Richard Jones,  
William Cole, John Gorges, Edward Ceely, Giles Strange-  
waies, John Cary of Castle Cary and Robert Morgan, Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

1. Uppon readinge the petition of Timothy Player of Shepton Mallett in this County thereby shewinge that about a twelve monethes sithence the Bayliffe of the Hundred of Whitstone did levy of the goods of the petitioner the some of twenty shillings for an amerciament imposed on the Tithinge of

Shepton Mallett aforesaid att the Leete held for the said Hundred for not repayinge of a Cuckingstoole within the said Tithinge; the examination of the truth of the petition referred to the two next Justices of the Peace to Shepton Mallett to call some of the sufficient of the Inhabitants of the said Tithinge before them to shew cause why they should not make an equal rate for the collecting of the said sum of twenty shillings and make payment thereof unto the said Timothy Player, and further to do therein as to law and Justice shall apperteyne.

2. Uppon readinge of the petition of Edward Burges of Chisselborough thereby shewing that hee hath served the office of Tithingman of the Tithinge of Chisselborough for the space of one whole yeere endinge att Michaelmas last past, and that one Mr Henry Minterne hath beene sithence accordinge to the custome there chosen to find a man to serve in the said office for this yeere but the said Mr Minterne refuseth to submitt thereunto; the examination of this business referred to the two next Justices of the Peace to Chisselborough or one of them, and to send for the said Mr Minterne and cause him to find an able man to execute the said office whom they are to swear accordingly which if the said Mr Minterne shall refuse to do the said Justices or one of them are and is desired to certify the true state of the said cause at the next General Sessions.

3. "Forasmuch as this Court is informed that the said Corpes wife refuseth to be settled at Ditchcatt according to the order of Bridgwater Sessions last" This Court doth desire John Cary Esqr to convene the said Corpe's wife before him and unles shee shall forthwith conforme to the said order by yielding obedience thereunto, to comitt her to the Common gaole there to remayne untill shee shall give sufficient suerties to conforme unto the same order.

4. Order confirming the order made at Ivelchester Sessions last that the inhabitants of the tithing of West Chinnock be from henceforth rated towards the relief of the poor of the parish of Chisselborough.



5. Uppon readinge the petition of Johane Hutchins wife of John Hutchins of Allinſey (Allownſhay near Ilminſter) in this Countie whoſe husband is gown from her, and ſhee beinge very poore the pariſhoners reſuſe to afford her maintennce and alſoe diſturbe the ſettlement of the ſaid Johane att Allinſey aforeſaid; The ſaid Johane ſhall be and remain at Allinſey until the next General Sessions and from thencefowards unleſſe the Churchwards of Allinſey ſhall ſhow good cauſe to the contrary.

6. Uppon readinge of an order of Bridgewater Sessions laſt thereby ſhewing that whereas an Indictment was preferred againſt the Inhabitants of Weſt Mounckton for not placinge of rayles in the outside of a certen cauſeway lyinge adjoininge to a common highway leadinge from the Towne of Taunton to the Towne of Bridgewater uppon which a tryall was had and a verdict paſſed againſt the ſaid Inhabitants, whereuppon it was ordered that all proceſſ and the eſtreatinge of all yſſues ſhould ſtay untill the ſaid Cauſeway ſhould have beene viewed by Thomas Gorges and John Gorges Eſq<sup>rs</sup> the twoe next Juſtices of the peace of this County to the ſaid pariſh of Weſt Mounckton who accordingly viewed the ſaid cauſeway, but conceived that the placinge of rayles there would much tend to the prejudice of travellers with themſelves horſes and carriages, This Court doth concurr in opinion with the ſaid twoe Juſtices, and in that reſpect doth not thinke fitt to proceede againſt the ſaid Inhabitants on the ſaid verdict but on the contrary to diſcharge all yſſues retorned againſt the ſaid inhabitants for want of rayles on the ſame cauſeway.

7. In the matter in diſpute between the pariſhes of Cutcombe and Luxborow touching Mary Rumſon and her daughter who are now in Cutcombe to remain and ſtand ſettled there until the next General Sessions to be held at Taunton and from thence forwarded unleſſe the pariſhoners of Cutcombe ſhall ſhow good cauſe to the contrary.

8. Forasmuch as Roger Earle apprentice to one Richard Whitchurch was att this Sessions convicted of petty larceny for ſtealinge certen goods from the ſaid Richard Whitchurch his

master, This Court in that respect and for that the said Roger Earle (as is credibly informed) is somewhat prone to Theft doth thinke meete to discharge the said Roger Earle the said apprentice from the service of the said Richard Whitchurch his Master and the said Richard Whitchurch is hereby freed and discharged from further providinge for his said apprentice, any indenture or covenant to the contrary notwithstandinge.

9. An appeal against an order made by William Ceely and John Cary Esqrs respecting a child born in the parish of Axbridge: the reputed father to pay towards the maintenance of the said child 12*d.* per week for eight years, to beginn from this present Sessions; instead of 1*s.* 6*d.* per week for seven years, and five markes instead of five pounds towards apprenticing the said child at the end of the seven years.

10. An order reviving the order made at the Bridgwater Sessions last respecting the difference between Richard Harse of Worle yeoman and Johane Crase who claimed certain wages from the said Richard Harse during the time she was a servant to him which was referred to John Buckland, Richard Jones and John Hipplesley Esq<sup>rs</sup>; and whereas the said order of the last Sessions hath not beene performed; Referred again to the same Justices.

11. Uppon readinge the petition of the Inhabitants of Wescombe in the parishe of Batcombe, thereby shewinge that they have of late beene very much burthened and oppressed by reason that their rates for the payment of their taxes have beene made in an undue and irregular way, and not accordinge to their auntient tithinge rates by which, for the space of fortie yeeres before and upwards they have beene governed; This Court doth refer the examination of the matter of the said petition (as to such rates whereof Justices of the peace have Cognizaunce) to the two next Justices of the peace to Wescombe, to end the same by an amicable mediation if they can, or otherwise to certify the true state thereof at the next General Sessions.

12. Uppon readinge the petition of Cornelius Burges Doctor in Divinity thereby shewinge (amongst other things) that hee

beinge authorized of Parliam<sup>t</sup> to preach the word of God in the late Cathedrall Church of Andrewes Wells both himselfe that preacheth and the people that repaire thither to heare are greatly disturbed in their religious exercizes by certain people who usually come into the Cloisters of the said Church and there continue walkinge up and downe and talkinge all sermon tyme, This Court doth therefore require the Constable of the Liberty of the said late Cathedrall Church that hee take care that all person or persons that from henceforth shall in the like manner offend bee brought to condigne punishm<sup>t</sup>. And the Justices of the peace of this Countie are desired on any complaint to them made in this behalfe to ymploy the [law] to the uttmost against all offenders of this Countie.

13. "For that it appeareth to this Court that it is convenient that the Keepers of the gaole for the time beinge bee likewise Keepers of the howse of Correction in regard the propinquity of the said howses"; This Court doth make and ordeyne Edward Howse and Stephen Harris gent (the present Keepers of the said goale) Keepers of the howse of Correction att Ivelchester.

14. Uppon the instance of Edward Ceely Esq<sup>r</sup> late Sherriffe of this Countie This Court doth nominate and appoint John Buckland, Henry Bonner, John Cary, and Robert Morgan, Esq<sup>rs</sup> &c. to view and oversee the estreats of the Countie Court for his yeere.

15. This Court beinge informed that the Common Gaole at Ivelchest<sup>r</sup> is in decay for want of reparations doth desire John Cary and Giles Strangewaies Esq<sup>rs</sup> to view and see what repations are wantinge in the said gaole and to certify this Court how they find the same att the next Generall Sessions.

16. Uppon Complaint made unto this Court for and on the behalfe of 2 children of one John Wolfe deceased That the mother of the said children dyed about a yeere since and that intestate, the administration of whose goods and chattles belongeth of right unto the said Children and forasmuch as there is not att present any jurisdiction for the said children to have recourse unto for an Administration in this behalfe This Court doth recom-

mend the care of the said children unto their grandmother by the father's side who is hereby desired to take such goods and estate which were left by the mother of the said children into her custody and to convert the same for and towards the maintenance and preferment of the said children.

17. Whereas by an order of Ivelchester Sessions in the 24<sup>th</sup> yeere of the reigne of the late King Charles grounded on the petition of John Norfolke William Ivyleafe Walter Singer and John Wythie all of the Tithinge of Froome to have a rate made for raisinge of the some of 5*l*. yssues which was levied on them by proces out of the Exchequer for insufficiency of a highway within the said tithinge and which ought to have bene repaired by the inhabitants of the said Tithinge of Froome ; It was then ordered that the said 5*l*. should be raysed by an equall rate to bee made within the said Tithinge ; and forasmuch as complaint is now made to this Court that the Inhabitants of the said tithinge of Froome have utterly neglected the said order, This Court doth now confirme the same and require that an equall rate bee forthwith made by the inhabitants of the said tithinge.

18. Upon trial and verdict given at the last Bridgewater Sessions This Court beinge satisfied of the truth of the verdict doth order and adjudge that from henceforth the said new Inclosed lands [called South Moore *a/s*. Aldermoore] shall not be rated towards the releife of the poore of St Johns Glaston as lands lyinge in the same.

19. Uppon readinge the petition of William Axford of Taunton James thereby shewinge that hee served the office of tithingman for the tithinge of Extra Portam within the said parishe for one whole yeere endinge the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1651 and that one Mr Henry West was for the then next term ensueinge chosen in his roome, but the said Mr West refused to bee sworne notwithstandinge three severall orders of this Court to which the said Mr West hath refused to submitt, and the Petitioner hath bene forced to execute the said office for theis 2 yeeres now last past to his allmost utter undoeinge (beinge a poore day labourer This Court doth desire Mr Mayor



of Taunton to send for the said Mr West before him and to cause the said Mr West to give the petitioner such satisfaction for his last yeeres executinge of the said office of tithingman as shalbee requisite, or else to bind over the said Mr West to answere his refusall in the premisses att the next Generall Sessions.

20. Uppon readinge the petition of Roger Taunton a poore impotent and blind man of the parishe of West Mounckton hereby shewing that he was formerly by order of Sessions admitted into the Hospitall of West Mounckton and there remayned for certen yeeres before the late troubles, and that the petitioner in the time of the Seidges against Taunton (the said Hospitall beinge possessed by the late Kings forces) was putt forth and without an order cannott be readmitted thereto ; The examination of the truth of the petition referred to the two next Justices to West Mounckton to doe therein as the petitioners case shall require and to lawe and justice shall apperteyne.

21. Uppon readinge the petition of severall poore distressed Inhabitants and Tradesmen of the parishe of Taunton St James thereby shewing that the petitioners are much oppressed and the poorer sorte ready to perishe for want occasioned by many journeymen, inmates, sojourners, and strangers, lately come into the said parishe; and forasmuch as the examination of the premisses hath beene referred to the two next Justices of the peace to Taunton St James aforesaid who have made severall orders touchinge the premisses but the same have not att all beene submitted unto nor obeyed; This Court doth therefore direct that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the said parishe of Taunton St James to rate and asseesse the severall persons who enterteine any journeymen inmates sojourners or strangers not lawfully settled in the said parishe the some of 3<sup>s</sup> & 4<sup>d</sup> apeece by the weeke over and above the present rate uppon them towards the releife of the poore of the said parishe, the same tax of 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. p weeke to continue on them respectively untill the severall journeymen inmates sojourners and strangers residinge in the said parishe and not lawfully settled shall remove from the severall and respective persons who enterteine them which rate and assessment hereby



directed shall receive approbation and confirmation of this Court.

22. Forasmuch as it is manifested unto us by the Minister and seuerall of the cheefest of the Inhabitants of the parish of Bedminster in this County that in the moneth of September which was in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand sixe hundred forty five their parish church was by souldiers under the command of Prince Rupert burned downe and thereby become unserviceable for the publike meeting of the s<sup>d</sup> parishe consisting of Eight hundred soules att the least to wayte on God in his ordinances ; and that the reedyfying of the said Church will not cost lesse then three thousand and fve hundred pounds which the said Inhabitants are unable to beare and the rather for that att the same time a great number of their houses were by the same souldiers likewise burned to the ground, and this is thus exhibited with a desire to us to giue testimony hereof unto your Honours that according to your approued piety you may please impower the said Inhabitants to collect the charitable benevolence of all well disposed psons towards the rebuilding of the same church, We therefore haueing taken the premisses into consideration doe humbly testify unto your Honours that severall of us can of our owne knowledge speake to the trueth of the most part of these particulars and that we conceaue it fitt and necessary to haue the same church rebuilt ; all which nevertheles wee humbly submitt to the consideration of your Honours from the Generall Sessions of the publike peace held for the said County att Wells the Eleauenth Day of January in the yeare of our lord God one thousand sixe hundred fifty and two.

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THE GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTIE ATT IVELCHESTER in the same Countie on Tuesday next after the Close of Easter that is to say the nineteenth day of Aprill in the yeere of our Lord God one thousand six hundred fifty and three, Before John

Pyne, John Buckland, Henry Bonner, John Cary, Robert Morgan, Richard Bovett, Thomas Blackbourne, John Barker the younger and John Gutch, Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

1. Uppon Complaint made by Nicholas Sheppard of the parishe of Charleton Horethorne, that John Light Collector of the greenewax for the Countie hath of late levied severall yssues amountinge to Thirtee and one shillings, and one shillinge for charges, in and about the same by distreyninge the goods of the said Sheppard uppon a Charge out of the Exchequer against the Inhabitants of the said parishe for non repaire of highwaies ; Order for an equal and proportionable rate to be made.

2. The like order (*mutatis mutandis*) for Nathaniell Nayle and Nicholas Bisse of the parishe of Halton for 40s<sup>h</sup>. for non repair of Countie Bridges. [*S.R.*, 88, 43.]

3. Uppon readinge the petition of John Nurse of Curryreevall thereby shewing that he hath faithfully served the Parliament for severall yeeres now past in England and Ireland duringe which service hee received severall wounds by meanes whereof hee is altogether unable to labour for a maintenance for himselfe and family ; the Treasurer of maymed souldiers desired to give the petitioner towards his present relief the sum of ten shillings ; and doth alsoe recommend the state and condition of the said Nurse unto the Overseers of the poore of the parishe of Curryreevall who are desired to afford the said petitioner such releife as his state and condition shall require. [*S.R.*, 88, 28.]

4. Uppon readinge the petition of Marmaduke Manninge and Alice his wife thereby shewing that the said Marmaduke beinge a poore ignorant and weake person of understandinge and not of capacity to manage his estate, one Andrew Ivy did insinuate with the said Manninge and thereby prevaild with him to lett to the said Ivy a Tenement for one yeere which hee the said Manninge hath and holdeth for his life att the yeerely rent of 14<sup>l</sup>. to bee paid by 5<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> per weeke which tenement hee the said Ivy hath held for twoe yeeres longer then hee tooke it and now denieth to pay the rent for the same although hee the said Ivy hath lett

the same for xxli. *p. ann.* all taxes and dueties beinge paid; this Court conceivinge the said Manninge to bee herein deceived and wronged by the said Ivy (as takinge advantage of his weakenes), and for that such the incapacity of the said Manninge doth bringe him within the cognizaunce of Justices of peace in this behalfe doth referr the matter of the petition unto John Cary and Robert Morgan Esq<sup>rs</sup> who are desired to send for all parties concerned herein and to doe therein as to lawe and justice shall apperteyne. [*S.R.*, 88, 27.]

5. Thomas Blackbourne Esq<sup>r</sup> is nominated and chosen Treasurer of the meighmed souldiers, for this next ensueinge yeere in the place and roome of Giles Strangewaies Esq<sup>r</sup> the late Treasurer; and Henry Bonner and John Cary Esq<sup>rs</sup> are hereby desired to take the Acompts of George Lutterell Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for the yeere 1651 and alsoe of the said Mr Strangewaies.

6. Mr Jonathan Pitt is nominated and chosen Treasurer of Hospitals for the Westerne division in the place and roome of Thomas Esq<sup>r</sup> the late Treasurer and John Cary and John Blackbourne Esq<sup>rs</sup> are desired to take the accompt of the said late Treasurer.

7. Mr. George Millard thelder is nominated and chosen Treasurer of the Hospitalls for the easterne division, in the place and roome of Robert Morgan Esq<sup>r</sup> the late Treasurer, and John Cary and Thomas Blackbourne Esq<sup>rs</sup> are desired to take accompt of the said late Treasurer.

8. Uppon readinge of the petition of Christian Marks and alsoe of a Certificate from his Excellency the Lord generall Cromewell This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that the Treasurer of the Hospitalls of the westerne division of the Countie doe pay unto the petitioner the some of 3*li.* towards her present releife for which this shalbee his warrant. [*S.R.*, 88, 25.]

9. Uppon readinge the petition of Martin Dunscombe (one of the maymed souldiers of this Countie) and uppon consideration had of the condition of the said Dunscombe, This Court doth

think fitt to advaunce the pension of the said Dunscombe (beinge att present but 40<sup>s</sup>) unto 3*li.* to bee paid Quarterly, to continue till further order made herein by this Court. [S.R., 88, 24.]

10. Uppon full hearinge the matter in dispute twixt the twoe severall parishes of Croscombe and Froome touchinge the settlem<sup>t</sup> of one Honor Sutton daughter of Robert Sutton, This Court doth declare the said Honor Sutton to bee and stand settled att Froome aforesaid. [S.R., 88, 23.]

11. Edward Howse and Stephen Harris Keepers of the gaole att Ivelchester to be paid 2*li.*, 8*sh.*, and 6<sup>d</sup>, the several sums of money which they had laid out in and about repairing the said goale. [S.R., 88, 22.]

12. The Overseers of the poor of Chellington (Chillington) forthwith to provide a convenient place of habitation for Suzan Jones of the parish of Chellington widow a poore woman of above sixty yeeres of age who hath lived as an Inhabitant of Chellington aforesaid for 40 yeeres past, but is now destitute of any place of habitation. [S.R., 88, 21.]

13. Uppon readinge of the petition of John Jorden and John Hardinge Constables of the Burrow of Evell, shewinge now that they have served in the Office of Constables of the said Burrow for twoe yeeres and therefore desired to bee eased therein ; This Court doth order that William Phelpes and Robert Marsh shall att the next private Sessions in or neere Evill aforesaid appeare before the Justices then to bee assembled, to take their oathes for the true execution of the said office of Constables of the said Burrow. [S.R., 88, 20.]

14. This Court beinge informed that George Webb the late Governor of the howse of Correction att Shepton Mallett is deceased, doth constitute and appoynt John Blynman of [ ] in the said Countie to bee Governor of the said howse of Correction att Shepton Mallett. [S.R., 88, 19.]

15. Uppon readinge the petition of severall persons Inhabitants of the parishe of Queene Cammell in this Countie Shewinge

That whereas there were heretofore graunted Breifes for collecting the charitable benevolence of well disposed people of severall Counties towards the losse the petitioners susteyned by fire and for new building of their howses and that Mr Robert Newman, Mr Henry Rose, John Thatcher, Nicholas Martin, William Perry deceased, and William Roper deceased, inhabitants of Queen Camell aforesaid beinge elected by the petitioners to receive and dispose of the money collected did receive severall somes of money and have not distributed the moneys nor rendered any accompt; Referred to John Cary and Robert Morgan Esqrs to determine the differince between thim if they can, or otherwise to certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions. [S.R., 88, 18.]

16. Whereas this Court is informed that George Webb the late Governor of the Howse of Correction att Shepton Mallett is deceased, and hath left 6 Children by severall venters by him, and whereas this Court is allsoe informed that there was 15*li*. arres due to the said Webb in his life time from the Treasurers of Hospitalls of this Countie, it is therefore desired on the behalfe of the said Children that the Overseers of the poore of the parishe of Shepton Mallett togeather with some other of the sufficientest of the said parishe will certifie the true state and condition of the said Children and which of them is in most necessity, and what manner of apportionment of the said moneys wilbee most meete att the next general Sessions of the peace to be held for this Countie That soe this Court may bee the better armed and instructed to distribute the said 15*li*. to the necessities of the said Children. [S.R., 88, 17.]

17. Uppon readinge the Certificate of Giles Raymond Esqr and severall other Inhabitants of Ivelchester for and on behalfe of Dorothy Chapple who stands condemned for Witchcraft and uppon Consideration had of certen Informations received by this Court concerninge the course of life of the said Dorothy; it is humbly certified as the opinion of this Court that the said Dorothy is a fitt object of mercy and to receive pardon for life which nevertheles is humbly submitted to the Consideration of the right hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lord Cheife Baron Wilde. [S.R., 88, 16.]



18. Uppon prooffe made to this Court by one Sarah Castle late servant to one Mr Frauncis James Minister of the parishe of Wedmore in this Countie that the said James doth deteyne from her one greene gowne, two redd petticoates, a blew petticoate, and a redd whittle which were given to her by the late wife of the said Frauncis James a little before her death; and that the said Mr James doth likewise deteyne from her a black capp, a smock, a halfe smock, twoe paire of gloves, the one leather and the other yarne, a pair of blew stockings, twoe Lynnen capps, the one holland and the other dowlas, which goods the said Sara often demaunded of the said Mr James and his now wife but they refused to deliver the same untill the said Sarah should have it by law, and further that the said Mr James owed her the said Sarah 21s<sup>h</sup>. for the rem[ainder] of wages due to her for her service, this Court doth order in the presence of the said Mr James that the said Mr James shall forthwith deliver unto the said Sarah the said goods by him deteyned from her or the true vallew of the same, and shall likewise then alsoe pay unto her the said 21s<sup>h</sup>., and in case the said Mr James shall refuse to doe the same the next Justice of the peace to Wedmore aforesaid is desired to graunt out a warrant of the good behaviour against the said Mr James. [S.R., 88, 15.]

19. Licence is graunted to John Rogers of the parishe of Chedder in this Countie to keepe a Common Alehowse or tiplinge howse, and to sell and utter beere and ale by retayle in his now dwellinge howse at Chedder aforesaid, hee the said John Rogers duely observinge the Assize in this behalfe to bee observed and all other rules restrictions and things which by the Lawes and Statutes of this Common Wealth an Alehowse keeper or Tipler is bound to keepe and observe; all which hee is become bound by Recognizaunce to performe; this License to continue in force duringe one whole yeere now next ensueinge and noe longer. [S.R., 88, 14.]

20. Uppon full hearinge the matter in dispute twixt the severall parishes of Cannington, Crocombe, and Treburrow in this Countie touchinge the settlement of a base child, the mother of which sithence the birth of the said child runn away and

left the same child uppon the parishe of Cannington; this Court doth order and adiudge the said base child to bee and stand settled att Treburrow there to bee provided for accordinge to lawe. [S.R., 88, 13.]

21. Henry Osbourne of Kingstone who was presented by the Jury ympannelled and sworn for the Hundred of Tintenhull to be Constable in the place and stead of Christofer Tachell the now Constable of the said Hundred, ordered forthwith to appear before the next justice of the peace to the said Hundred there to take his oath for the true execution of the said Office of Constabship for one year now next coming. [S.R., 88, 12.]

22. Order for an equal rate to be made by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Othery for raising thirty shillings and reimbursing John Merrett and Robert Kerle of the same parish whose goods had been levied upon by process of greenwax from the Exchequer for non appearance of the inhabitants of Othery at the General Sessions before that time held. [S.R., 88, 11.]

23. Uppon readinge of the petition of William Foster parishe Clerke of the parish of Aller in this Countie, shewinge that hee hath served in the said office for the space of seaven yeeres past att the accustomed stipend of *xls<sup>h</sup> per ann.* payeable by the parishoners of Aller aforesaid which some of them refuse to pay and others are in parte in arrere, this Court doth desire the twoe next Justices of the peace to Aller aforesaid to call all parties concerned herein before them and make such order in the premisses as shalbee agreeable to Justice. [S.R., 88, 10.]

24. Uppon readinge of the petition of Alice Galloway widow whose husband was murdered att Woodhowse in the service of the Parliament; Thomas English, Esqr. Treasurer of the Hospitals for the western Division of this County to forthwith pay unto her the sum of *xls<sup>h</sup>* towards her present maintenance. [S.R., 88, 8.]

25. Uppon readinge the petition of George Smith the younger executor of George Smith of Ivelchester whereby hee

prayeth that Nicholas Illary heretofore bound apprentice to the Petitioners father may bee discharged for that the said Illary about halfe a yeere since departed from the service of the said Petitioners father without leave and never returned either to his said Master in his life time or to the petitioner since his decease, this Court doth not thinke fitt to discharge the said apprentice att present but doth order that notice bee given to the said Illary or some friends allied to him to shew cause att the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this Countie why the said apprentice should not bee discharged. [S.R., 88, 7.]

26. Uppon Complaint made to this Court by Dorothy Vale servant unto Thomas Keene of Marke in this Countie that the said Keene abuseth her and turnes her out of his doore refusing to continue her in his service although her time bee not yett expired till Michaelmas next, this Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that shee bee settled and continued with the said Keene till the next Generall Sessions of the peace and from thencefourth after Michaelmas next unles hee havinge notice of this order shall att the same next Sessions show good cause to the contrary. [S.R., 88, 5.]

27. Uppon Complaint made by Elizabeth Crocker of the parishe of Bromefeild widow a very poore old woman that shee is threatned by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the same parishe to bee removed from thence This Court doth order that the said Elizabeth shalbee settled att Bromefeild untill the next Generall Sessions of the peace and soe afterwards to continue there settled unles the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the parishe of Bromefeild aforesaid havinge notice hereof shall att the same next Sessions shew good cause to the contrary. [S.R., 88, 4.]

28. Warrant for the apprehension of Edmond Poole of Southpetherton who had made default in appearing at this Sessions when bound by recognizance to do so ; directed to the Constables of the Hundred of South Petherton and all other officers whom these shall concern. [S.R., 88, 2.]

29. Whereas a Tryall was had att Bridgewater Sessions last by consent of the parishes of St Johns in Glaston, Butleigh and Streete of the yssue ioyned uppon an Indictment against Johnne Talbott and Edward Tayler of Butleigh for breakinge and entringe the Close of William Morse att St. Johns Glaston in this Countie and takinge and drivinge away of one Cow of the said William Morses; and forasmuch as there was cause now offered on the behalfe of the parishe of St. Johns Glaston by the ratinge of the said new Inclosed Lands which cause this Court holdinge not sufficient to draw them from their former determination This Court doth therefore ratify and confirme the said Order of Wells Sessions last to all intents and purposes whatsoever. [S.R., 88, 9.]

30. This Court beinge sensible of the greate decayes of Taunton bridge, Gawbridge bowe, Pensfords bridge, and Bartpoole, and that there is a necessity for the speedy repayringe thereof, doth thinke fitt that there bee the some of one hundred and sixtie pounds raised on the severall hundreds of this Countie by way of assessment and ymployed towards the repayringe of the same bridges. And to that purpose doth desire John Pyne, John Buckland, Henry Bonner, William Ceely, Edward Ceely, Richard Jones, John Cary, William Cole, Thomas, Siderfin, Giles Strangewaies, Robert Morgan, Richard Bovett, John Barker, Thomas Blackbourne, and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup>, Justices of the peace, or anie fower or more of them to impose asseesse and raise the same some accordinge to the statute in this behalfe the same some of 160*li*. to bee thus apportioned (that is to say) 45*li*. thereof is to goe towards the repaire of Taunton bridge, 40*li*. more thereof is to goe towards the repaire of Gawbridge bowe, 35*li*. more thereof towards the repaire of Pensford-bridge, and the 40*li*. residue thereof towards the repaire of Bartpoole bridge; and it is further ordered that Samuell Whetcombe gent bee receiver of the said some soe to bee raised, and to pay over the same in preportion as aforesaid and the said Mr. Whetcombe is alsoe desired to take care that Taunton bridge bee sufficiently repaired, of which bridge Thomas Gale and William Gill are appointed to bee Surveyors, and of Gawbridge bowe William Rayes John Masters of Martock,

and Mr James Humfries of Kingsbury are appointed to bee Treasurers and Surveyors; and of Pensfordbridge Capt. John Lock and Capt. James Burges are appointed to bee Treasurers and Surveyors; and of Bartpoole bridge Thomas Gale and Nicholas Bulte are appointed to bee Treasurers and Surveyors. [S.R., 88, 6.]

31. It is thought meet by this Court and ordered that the wounds of all maymed souldiers in pension in this County bee viewed and searched during Taunton Sessions next, and a full accompt then giuen of their severall states and conditions to this Court to thend that this Court may be the better instructed to determine which of their pensions are fitt to bee augmented, lessened, or taken off, And the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers is to cause this order to be put in execution.

Att the generall quarter Sess<sup>s</sup> held at Ivelchester the 19th of Aprill 1653.

The presentment of the Grand Jury regarding wages.

[The only difference "Mowers at meat & Drinke" is  $\frac{1}{2}$  instead of 9d.]

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE, HELD  
FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT THE CASTLE OF TAUNTON  
in the same County, On Tuesday next after the Feast of the  
translation of Saint Thomas the Martyr, (to witt) the  
twelueth day of July in the yeare of our Lord God one  
thousand sixe hundred fifty and three, Before John Turbervill,  
Thomas Siderfin, Henry Bonner, Edward Ceely, George  
Searle, William Cole, John Cary, Richard Bovett, George  
Sampson, Thomas Blackburne, John Barker the younger, &  
John Gutch Esquiers.

1. Upon readinge the petition of the parishoners of Fiddington in this County thereby shewing that about 6 yeares sithence one John Warren dyed leaving behind him three small children, after whose decease Thomas Warren his brother possessing



himselfe of the estate of the said John Warren undertooke the care and maintenance of the youngest of the said children; sithence which tyme the said Thos. Warren hath left the country and gon to places unknowne, and the said youngest child become chargeable to the said parishe, and forasmuch as this Court is informed y<sup>t</sup> there is due from one Mr. Shervey of the said parish to the said Thomas Warren the sume of nyne pounds; and therefore it is prayed on the behalfe of ye overseers of the poore of the said parish that the same sume of Nyne pounds may be paid unto them for and towards the maintenance of the said youngest child; which this Court thinketh fitt and reasonable, and doth order the same accordingly, unles the said Mr Shervey having notice herof shall shew good cause to the contrary att the next generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County.

2. Whereas at the Sessions held att Wells for the said County in the yeare of our Lord 1652, upon hearing the matter in dispute twixt the two severall parishes of Cutcomb and Luxborowe in this County for the settlement of Mary Rumson and her daughter who are now at Cuttcombe, it was ordered that the said Rumson and her daughter should remayne settled at Cuttcombe aforesaid untill this present Sessions of ye peace and from thenceforwards unles the parishioners of Cuttcombe should then shew good cause to the contrary; And whereas noe cause hath been shewed to the contrary by the parishioners of Cutcombe at this present Sessions: Ordered that the said Mary Rumson and her daughter shall remayne and stand absolutely settled at Cutcombe aforesaid.

3. List of persons to be paid by the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers [20 names].

Itm to Johane Shorley towards the cure of Thomas Duddes-ridge 5*l*. Further satisfaction when the cure don.

4. Uppon the petition of Maude Cape of the parishe of Wellington and consideration had of her poore condition, to be paid 12*d*. a week by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Wellington—

The like for Jane Hart for xij<sup>d</sup>. from the same Churchwardens and overseers.

The like for Margaret Jenkins for xvij<sup>d</sup>. from the Churchwardens and overseers of Bridgewater.

The like for Margery Millard for xvij<sup>d</sup> from the same churchwardens and overseers.

The like for Mary Bishop for xij<sup>d</sup> from ye churchwardens and overseers of Wellington.

The like for Richard Parker for viij<sup>d</sup> from the same churchwardens and overseers.

The like for Anthony Jessop xij<sup>d</sup> from ye churchwardens and overseers of Huntspill.

The like for William Ballard for xij<sup>d</sup> from the churchwardens and overseers of Taunton unles cause shewed to the contrary before the Mayor of Taunton.

The like for Katherine Legg for xij<sup>d</sup> from the churchwardens and overseers of Taunton unles cause shewed before the same Mayor.

5. Phillip Maunsell of the towne of Wiveliscombe in the said County Vintner is by this Court assigned nominated and appoynted to keepe a taverne in the said Towne of Wiveliscombe and therein to sell and utter wyne by retayle untill order shalbe att any generall Sessions of the peace to be held for this County to ye contrary. Provided allwayes & this Court doth declare that it is not its intention hereby any way to obstruct the renew accrewing to the State by the graunting of wine licences.

6. Whereas this Court is informed by and on the behalfe of the parishoners of Tolland that one William Shattocke a poore man about 6 monethes sithence came with his Wife and children from Crocombe to Tolland where they yett remaine ; and forasmuch as itt appeareth that the parishoners of Tolland aforesaid within sixe dayes next after such their coming thither haue given notice to the said Shattocke his wife and children to depart from Tolland aforesaid who haue refused so to doe, In which respect the said petitioners have desired ye order of this Court for their removall which this Court cannot graunt in respect that they have not as yett been chargeable to or desired reliefe from the said

parish, but for that its probable that they may be chargeable to the same parish :

Ordered that their being there shall not be prejudicial to the said parish but in case it should hereafter appear that the said Shattocke his wife or children to be chargeable to the said parish of Tolland that then they were to be sent back to Crocombe aforesaid and there to be settled.

7. Fifteen pounds due and owing to George Webb deceased late keeper of the House of Correction at Shepton Mallett in pursuance of the order of Ivelchester Sessions last ordered to be paid equally to Geo. Webb and Luce Webb two of the children of the said George Webb between them equally.

8. Upon readinge the petition of Phillipp Garland of Middlezoy shewing that one Richard Gatcombe was bound apprentice unto one John Cooke the elder of North Petherton Worsted Comber duringe the full terme of nyne yeares But the said John Cooke about Christ tide last leaving the said art of Worsted Combing did putt away his said apprentice neyther would he receave him againe nor provide for him, for which cause the petitioner hath desired that the said apprentice should be discharged of ye said apprentishood to the end hee may bee att liberty to endeauor the getting of his trade elsewhere which this Court holdeth just and reasonable And doth discharge the said Richard Gatcomb from his said apprentishood.

9. This Court upon hearing of the parishioners of Henstridge on the behalfe of one Kenchenton (who liueth by the almes of the said parish) concerning severall yearely sumes payable to the said Kenchenton by one Thomas Morris ; and upon hearing also of the said Morris and Kenchenton It is ordered by the consent of all the said parties that the said Morris shall during five yeares now next ensuing if the said Kenchenton and his wife or eyther of them shall so long liue, pay to the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish to the use of the said Kenchenton and his wife and the Suruiuor of them ye yearely sume of forty shillings at the fower usuall quarters of the yeare by equall portions which is to bee deemed and taken to bee in full of all demaunds of the said Kenchenton from the said Morris.

10. Upon reading the petition of John Blinman keeper of the house of Correction att Shepton Mallett thereby shewing that the said house is fallen into great decay for want of reparation Thomas Blackburne and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> desired to view and see what reparations are needful to be made in and about the said house, and to cause the same to be forthwith done. And the Treasurer of the hospitals of the Eastern Division is to issue out such money as shall be needful therein by order of the two next Justices.

11. This Court in pursuance of a reference from the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Wilde Lord Cheife Baron of the publike Exchequer, one of the Justices of Assize for this westernne circuit, hath taken into examination and consideration ye consequence of the Towne of Wiuelscombe in this County and how many taverns wilbe necessary to bee had and continued therein and doth conceiue that it is convenient and necessary to have two wyne tavernes lycenced and allowed in the same att least for the accomodation of the same Towne and the parts thereto adjacent. And this Court is also of opinion that Phillip Maunsell of Wivelscombe aforesaid is a fitt person to be lycenced and allowed to keepe a taverne in the same towne.

12. Upon readinge the petition of the churchwardens and overseers of ye poore of the parish of Lovington thereby shewing that one John Cooper departing from the said parish left his wife a weake sickly woman behind him that is sithence chargeable to the same parish ; and whereas one William Cooper his brother att the departure of the said Cooper was indebted unto the said John in the sume of xx*li*. of which the said William hath paid only 14*li*. and 2*s*., but the 5*li*. 18*s*. residue of the s<sup>d</sup> xx*li*. resteth still in the hands of the said William Cooper ; This Court doth order that the said Will. Cooper shall forthwith pay unto the overseers of the Poore of Lovington afores<sup>d</sup> the said sume of 5*li*. 8*sh*. residue of the said sume of xx*li*. for the maintenance of the said wife of the said John Cooper, unles the said William Cooper shall shew good cause to the contrary att the next generall Sessions.

13. Upon hearing the matter in dispute twixt the severall parishes of Churchill, Banwell, and Congersbury in this County touching the settlement of one Mary Mayd who is now att Banwell, the same parish of Churchill is now discharged of and from the said Mayd; and forasmuch as the said parish of Congersbury hath not yet been heard to make any defence in the premisses, it is ordered that the said Mary Mayd shalbe and remayne att Banwell untill the next generall Sessions. Att which tyme upon hearing both the said parishes of Banwell and Congersbury This Court will finally determine touching the same settlement.

14. Upon hearing the matter in dispute twixt the parishes or Naylezey and Kenn in this County touching the settlement of one Fraunces Baily who is now att Kenn; to be finally determined at the next general Sessions.

15. For that this Court is informed by diverse of the inhabitants of Preston Plucknett that house of one John Wills of Preston aforesaid now licensed to sell ale is a most unfitt place to doe the same in regard of its neerenes to the town of Yeovill, This Court doth hereupon order that the s<sup>d</sup> Alehouse shalbee actually suppressed, any licence formerly graunted to the contrary notwithstanding.

16. For that this Court is informed by the Constables churchwardens and overseers and major part of the parishoners of the towne of Yeovill that a house built by Mr. Cary of the Angell at Yeovill now licensed to sell ale is a most unfitt place both in regard of the inconveniency of the place as also for the resort of mens servants and other idle persons traueilling that way, whereby many of ye neighbours are much prejudiced, This Court doth hereupon order that ye said alchouse now called the Ship shalbe actually suppressed, any licence formerly grannted to the contrary notwithstanding.

17. Upon reading the petition of Robert Stone of Milverton in this County thereby shewing that there haueing been lately severall yssues amounting to 33s<sup>7</sup>/<sub>2</sub> leuyed on the petitioners by some of the Sheriffes officers of the said County upon a charge out of



the Exchequer against the Inhabitants of ye said parish for non repayre of a certen bridge called Pooch bridge, part whereof lyeth within the said parish of Miluerton.

Order that an equal and proportionable rate be made for the raysing and levying the said sume of 33s<sup>h</sup>. and reimbursing the said Robert Stone.

18. Upon hearing of severall of the Inhabitants of the parish of Overstowey concerning differences arisen between them in the making of their rates for the poore This Court doth declare itt selfe to be so farre unsatisfied in the trueth of the matter of fact as not to make any small determination therein. Only to prevent all obstructions in the way to the reliefe of the poore of the said parish, It is ordered that the first rate shall stand for the present, But this nott to bee any prejudice to either party as to the suits now depending between them att law, And itt is further ordered that both parties shalbe reheard att Bridgwater Sessions next.

19. An order made by John Pyne and Edward Ceely Esq<sup>rs</sup>. the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 1653 for the bringing up and keeping of a child born at North Petherton; the reputed father to pay 1s. 4d. per week until the said Child shall accomplish ye age of eight yeares; and then to pay £5 for and towards the placing and binding out of the said child an apprentice. The mother (when the said Child shalbe weaneable) shalbe conveyed to the house of correction att Ivelchester there to remayne and be safely kept for the space of one whole yeare and to bee dealt withall according to the Lawes and Statutes.

20. An Order made by Edward Ceely and Richard Bouett Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 29th day of June 1653 for the bringing up and keeping of a child born at Norton Fitzwarren.

21. An order made by Edward Ceely and John Carye Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 14th July 1653 for the bringing up and keeping of a child born at Wincaulton.

THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT BRIDGEWATER in the same County on Tuesday next after the Feast of St. Michael the archangell (yt is to say) the fowerth day of October in the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred fifty and three, Before Sr Thomas Wroth, Knt., William Ceely, Giles Strangewaies, Richard Jones, Henry Bonner, Robert Morgan, John Turberville, Thomas Syderfin, John Barker the younger, John Gutch, William Cole, George Sampson, John Cary, Thomas Blackburne, Edward Ceely and Richard Bouett, Esquiers.

1. Upon hearing the Complaint of several of the parishioners of Queen Camell and upon reading the certificate of John Carye and Rob<sup>t</sup> Morgan Esq<sup>rs</sup> &c., Newman, Thatcher and Martyn ordered to pay several sums of money collected by benevolence remaining in their hands to such persons as the said Mr Cary shall see fit to receive the same, who shall disburse the same within a fortnight after notice thereof to such of the inhabitants of Queen Camell as they shall think fit. [S.R., 88, 55, 58.]

2. The Treasurer for the maymed souldiers not having in his hands at present sufficient to pay all the pensions due to the said maymed souldiers this Court have thought meet and do so order that the Treasurers for the hospitals for the Western Division shall forthwith issue forth and pay to the said Treasurer for maymed souldiers the sum of 30*li*. [S.R., 88, 57.]

3. Upon reading of the petition of Lewis Parishe now Constable of the Burrow of Milverton hereby shewing that by order of Bridgewater Sessions last he was sworne Constable of the said Burrow for the yeare now last past which office he hath served and therefore did present unto this Court the names of fower persons fitt to serve the said office for the yeare ensuing (vizt.) Thomas Ferris, John Lockyer, William Thatcher and Henry Parish, this Court doth desire Colonel Richard Bovett and John Turberville Esq<sup>rs</sup> or eyther of them will consider which of the said fower persons soe nominated is fittest to serve the

said office and to sweare the same person for the due execution of the same office accordingly. [S.R., 88, 56.]

4. Johane Downes and her two children to be sent from Martocke to Ilminster and there to stand settled. [S.R., 88, 59.]

5. To y<sup>e</sup> supreme authority y<sup>e</sup> Parliament of y<sup>e</sup> Common Wealth of England,

Forasmuch as itt appeareth unto us by a Certificate under the hands of the Constables, Churchwardens and severall of the credible persons of the cheefest of y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of the Towne of Glaston in this County that in the moneth of July last past about eleauen of the clocke in the night a sudden and fearefull fire did breake forth in the Towne of Glaston in this County by reason of which fire fowerteene dwelling houses besides many outhouses with most of the goods therein were consumed and burned. And that the losse of the same in the opinion of skilfull workemen who haue surveyed the same losses amounteth in vallew to y<sup>e</sup> sume of two thousand and fiue hundred pounds and vpwards; And this is thus exhibited with a desire to us to giue testimony hereof unto your Honours that according to your approved piety you may please to ympower the Inhabitants of the said town of Glaston to collect the charitable benevolence of all well disposed persons of y<sup>e</sup> said County of Somersett and other the adjacent Counties towards the rebuilding of the said houses and reparations of the great losses of the said Inhabitants, We therefore hauing taken the premisses into consideration doe humbly certify unto your Honours that severall of us can of our owne knowledge speake to the trueth of the most part of these particulars, All which nevertheles we humbly submitt to the consideration of your Honours from the Generall Sessions of the publique peace held for the said County att Bridgwater the fowerth day of October in the yeare of our Lord God 1653. [S.R., 88, 60.]

6. A warrant directed to the Constables of the hundred of Glaston xij hides and to y<sup>e</sup> Tithingman of North Woutton and all others officers in the County whom it may concern for the

apprehension of Henry Court of North Woutton or of Glastonbury, to be tried for perjury at the next Assizes or general gaol delivery for this County. [S.R., 88, 61.]

7. Upon reading of an order dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August last whereby it appeareth to this Court that one John Oland hauing been bound apprentice unto one John Pringe of Taunton St James who was then gone from his habitation whereby y<sup>e</sup> said apprentice cannot be taught and instructed in the mistery and trade of a Weauer whereunto he was bound ; And it appearing to the said Justics upon examination that the said apprentice had not been allowed by his said Master sufficient meat drinke lodging and apparel but upon their owne view did find him to bee almost starued to death and eaten out with lice, And therefore the said Justics did order and appoint the said Oland to goe home and liue with his friends untill this present generall Sessions of the Peace This Court doth order that for the reasons aforesaid the said John Oland the apprentice shalbe absolutely freed and discharged of and from ye service of the said John Pringe his Master, any Indenture of apprenticeship or contract whatsoeuer to the contrary notwithstanding. [S.R., 88, 63.]

8. The like Order for George Sweeting upon the like order of the same Justics being apprentice to the said John Pringe.

9. Upon reading of the petition of William Carsewell of Aish Priors in this County thereby shewing that he hath for diverse yeares last past executed the office of a Constable within the hundred of Kingsbury West, and desiring this Court to discharge him from the further execution of the said office This Court doth desire the next Justice of ye peace to Kingsbury West to call John Collins of Wellington, Roger Thomas of the same, and George Hitchcocke of the same before him, and to appoint such one of them as he shall thinke meet to bee Constable of the hundred aforesaid and to sweare him accordingly for the due execution of the same office. [S.R., 88, 62.]

10. Whereas Peter Whitlocke of Somerton in this County Tanner was bound ouer by Recognizance taken before John Barker

the younger Esq<sup>r</sup> for entertaining of William Darby an apprentice of one Geo. Cooper and receiving of 4*li.* and 4*s*/. in money from one Mr George Darby, now upon hearing all that hath been alleadged both on the behalfe of the said Whitlocke and also of the said Darby This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that the said William Darby shalbe from henceforth discharged from the service of the s<sup>d</sup> Whitlocke any Indentures or contracts to ye contrary notwithstanding; And it is further ordered that the s<sup>d</sup> Peter Whitlocke shall on or before the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December next ensuing the date hereof pay or cause to be paid unto the said George Darby the sume of 3*li.* part of the aforesaid sume of 4*li.* 4*s*. Upon refusal to be committed to the Common Gaol. [S.R., 88, 64.]

11. This Court having receaved sufficient testimony touching the disaffection of John Henburrow Bayliffe of the hundred of North Curry in this County to the present government doe declare the said Henborrow incapable of executing of the same office; And doe therefore order that the said Henborrow shalbe from henceforth utterly disabled to execute the same and doe conceiue William Best of North Curry to bee a person fitt to be admitted to the said office in the place and roometh of the said Henborrow. [S.R., 88, 65, 66.]

12. Bartholomew Farthing and William Exon churchwardens of the parish of Stogursey ordered forthwith to pay as well all such moneyes as were in arrear before they were nominated and appointed Churchwardens aforesaid as such moneyes as have become due since the nomination and appointment. [S.R., 88, 67.]

13. Upon consideration of the condition of one Francis Spencer a poore maymed souldier, to be paid *xs*/. But the said Spencer is not to expect any more for the future. [S.R., 88, 68.]

14. Upon Complaint made by some of the parishoners of Stogursey that William Hodges and George Wheeler heretofore appointed Churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Stogursey had not yeelded up an accompt to the s<sup>d</sup> Justices [John Pyne and Edward Ceely Esq<sup>rs</sup>] nor paid the surplusage thereof to the said



now Churchwardens [Bartholomew Farthing and Willm Exon]; This Court doth therefore order that the now Churchwardens and overseers of the Poore of Stogursey aforesaid shall forthwith levy by distress and sale of goods (rendring to ye parte the overplus) the sume of xxs. apeece of the goods of the said Hodges and Wheeler, and shall distribute the same two severall sumes of xxs. to and amongst the poore of the said parish of Stogursey within a fortnight now next cominge and in default of such distresse, to committ the said Hodges and Wheeler or eyther of them to the common goale. [S.R., 88, 69.]

15. Whereas Thomas Humfreys of North Petherton in this County was att this Sessions convicted upon his owne confession for a certen nusanse in a common highway in North Petherton aforesaid by erecting of a certen cottage there contrary to the publike peace This Court doth thinke fitt to ympose a fine of 5s<sup>4</sup>. upon ye said Thomas Humfries for the nusanse aforesaid; And doth order and require y<sup>e</sup> Sherriffe of this County of Somersett that att or before the first day of Nouember next hee repaire unto the aforesaid nusanse takeing to his assistance the power of his County if itt bee needfull, and that he cause the same nusanse to be removed by pulling the same downe. [S.R., 88, 70.]

16. Upon Complaint to this Court That one [ ] Arnold thelder of East Lydford in this County hath for the space of two yeares now last past taken home into his house one [ ] Ford of Somerton Widow and liued with her as man and wife; and the said Arnold hauing been now att this present Sessions examined touching the same, doth acknowledge that he is not marryed to the said Widow Ford, whereby this Court is induced to beleue that they liue together in incontineney, This Court doth therefore desire M<sup>r</sup> Strangewayes, Captaine Barker, and M<sup>r</sup> Carye three of the Justics of the peace of this County or any two or one of them to call the said Arnold and Ford before them and all such witnesses and proofes as shalbe requisite and to examine the trueth of the said complaint and to certify the same att the next Generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County; and also to bind ouer the said Arnold Ford or eyther of them to appeare att the said next Sessions if they see cause. [S.R., 88, 1.]

Order made by John Turbervill and Thomas Syderfyn Esq<sup>rs</sup> 1st October 1653 for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Chipstable.

Order made by Giles Strangewaies and John Carye Esq<sup>rs</sup> concerning a man child born in the parish of Weston Bampfild. Dated the 5th of October 1653.

Order made by Edward Ceely and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 20th day of July 1653 for the bringing up and keeping &c. of a child born at Bagburrow.

Order made by John Buckland and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the keeping of Thomas a child born in the parish of Priddy ; dated 1st October 1653.

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THE GENERAL SESSIONS OF OLIVER, LORD PROTECTOR OF YE COMMON WEALTH OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND AND THE DOMINIONS THERETO BELONGING, HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT WELLS in the same County on Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany (that is to say) the Tenth day of January in the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred fifty three (four), Before Alexander Popham, Esq<sup>r</sup>., Keeper of the Rolls of said County, S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Wroth, Kt., John Buckland, Richard Jones, John Barker the younger, John Gutch, John Carye, George Sampson, Edward Ceely, Richard Bovett, and Giles Strangewaies, Esqs.

1. This Court uppon viewing of a note of charges amounting to xxvj<sup>s</sup>/. xj<sup>d</sup>/. laid out by the keepers of the goale and allowing thereof: Order that the same be paid by the Treasurer of the hospitals of the western division. [S.R., 88, 45.]

2. Upon hearing of a difference between one Thomas Abbott and one Peter Howndell of ye parish of Wythipoole in this County touching one Agnes Burges a poore child who was putt an apprentice to ye s<sup>d</sup> Abbott, which the said Thomas Abbott refusing to keepe, was by Recognizance bound to appeare att this

Sessions to answer for his neglect therein; This Court doth order that in respect of the said Howndell is contented and hath offered to pay 50s<sup>h</sup>. to the said Abbott in case he will be contented to take the said apprentice, the said apprentice shall be kept by the said Abbott, and the said Howndell discharged from her. And further that the said Howndell shall not bee henceforth compelled to take any other apprentice untill by the custome of the said parish he shall come in turne to take one. [S.R., 88, 40.]

3. Upon the appeal of Amias Bampffield gent of the parish of Weston Bampffield the order made by Giles Strangeways and John Carye Esq<sup>rs</sup> was reduced from 1s. 6d. per week to 1s. per week, and the sum of £5 payable when the child should attain the age of 8 towards binding out the said child as an apprentice should be reduced to £3. [S.R., 88, 41.]

4. Forasmuch as John Viccary of Staplegroue was bound by Recognizance to appeare att this Sessions for abusing the Tythingman of Staplegroue This Court doth referre the examination of this busines to Edward Ceely Esq<sup>r</sup> to compose the difference twixt them if he can, or else to bind ouer the said Viccary to appeare att the next Sessions, to bee of the good behaviour. [S.R., 88, 44.]

5. Whereas Robert Wescott, Henry Wescott, and Andrew Wescott were att the General Sessions of the peace held for this County att [place and date omitted] on the prosecution of one John Willye and Peternell his wife indicted for a certen trespass and assault by them committed on the said Willy and his wife for the remouall of which Indictment they the said Robert, Henry and Andrew Wescott did att the generall Sessions of the peace held there the Eleauenth Day of January 1652 deliuer by one John Estmond to the Justices then assimbled a Writt of Certiory [*sic*] returnable in the Upper bench in the Eight Daies after St<sup>i</sup> Hillary then next ensuing; On which Indictment by force of a Writt of Proccedendo yssuing out of the Upper Bench itt was soe farre proceeded att the generall Sessions of the peace held for this County att [place and date omitted] that the said Wescotts were

convicted on the said Indictment: This Court doth therefore asseſse unto the said John Willy and Peternell his wife the ſume of 4*li.* of and for the coſts and damages in this behalfe ſuſteyned to bee paid unto them by the ſaid Weſtcotts. [S.R., 88, 42.]

6. Whereas there is a ſurpluſage of hoſpitall money in the hands of Captain Pitts Treasuſer of the hoſpitalls for the Western Division of this County; 20*li.* to bee forthwith paid by the ſaid Captain Pitts unto Mr William Cornish who in reſpect of the death of Mr Blackbourne the late Treasuſer of the maymed ſouldiers is in the place and ſteed of Mr Blackbourne to bee imployed according to the direction of the Juſtics of the peace in this Sessions for ſuch charitable uſes as the ſaid Juſtics ſhall appointe. [S.R., 88, 46.]

7. This Court taking into conſideration the ſad condition of one Andrew Phillips an old penſioner who is in great diſtreſſe for want of a houſe for habitation, and the ſaid Phillips is intending to build a houſe This Court doth order that the ſaid Phillips ſhall haue halfe a yeares pay of his penſion before hand paid unto him by the preſent Treasuſer for the maymed ſouldiers. [S.R., 88, 47.]

8. Hannah Webber of Thorne Faulcon having been convicted at this Sessions for having a baſe child to be committed to the houſe of correction att Taunton there to remaine by the ſpace of one whole yeare; and the overſeers of the poor of Thorne Faulcon to take care to provide for the child.

9. Upon hearing the complaint of one William Willmott of Banwell that there hauing been two ſeverall amerceſments againſt the inhabitants of Banwell aforeſaid for not repayring their high-ways which was by the greenewaxe gatherer of this County levyed upon the ſaid Willmott; and forasmuch as this Court is informed that a rate hath been made by the ſaid pariſh for the rayſing of the ſume of Seaven pounds for reimburse<sup>t</sup> of the ſaid Willmott of the moneys levyed on him; of which rate one George Irish was appoyted collector who collected the ſame and yett hath not made ſatisfaction to the ſaid Willmott: Referred to John Buckland and Richard Jones Eſq<sup>rs</sup> who are deſired to call

all parties before them, and to order payment to bee made to the said Willmott if they find that the said Irish hath money in his hands sufficient to pay the same. If the same refuse to make payment, to bind him over to the next Sessions ; if he hath not sufficient money in his hands the churchwardens and overseers to levy by a rate upon the said parish so much as the said Irish hath not in his hands. [S.R., 88, 48.]

10. Upon reading the petition of one John Watkins of Wellington that he hath a son who hath been in a distracted condition for theis fowerteen or fifteen yeares and noe wayes capable of working or any way relieving himselfe and the father being a poor aged man is not of ability to releeue and mainteyne himselfe and his said son ; and upon reading of a certificate of severall persons that the said John Watkins his son is a fitt object of pitty This Court doth desire the two next Justices of the peace to Wellington aforesaid to take the petition into their consideration and to make such order for the petitioners reliefe and further to doe therein as shall bee agreeable to Law. [S.R., 88, 30.]

11. Upon Complaint made unto this Court by the late Constables of the hundred of Froome that in the yeare of our Lord 1647 they with the then Undersheriffe of this County did apprehend and take severall persons residing and inhabiting within the said hundred who were accused for robbing and taking away of corne from divers persons uppon the highwayes which persons were by the said Constables and Guards by them provided carryed to the goale att Ivelchester, all which cost ye said Constables 5*li*. 5*sh*. 10*d*. as they alleadge for which the said Constables haue received no satisfaction att all ; Referred to the two next Justices to Froome to call all parties before them and to make such order therein as shall be agreeable to law. [S.R., 88, 31.]

12. Forasmuch as John Thatcher of Queen Cammell in this County was bound over by Recognizance before John Carye Esq<sup>r</sup> in pursuance of an order of this Court for not paying of the sume of 6*li*. 10*sh*. which the said Thatcher heretofore received for the Inhabitants of Queen Cammell towards some reparations of



their losses by fire which heretofore happened in the said parish ; Now upon hearing what hath been alleadged by the said Thatcher that there is onely 50s<sup>h</sup>. due from him which he hath paid and that the 4*li*. residue was receaued by one Mr Newman This Court doth referre the examination of this busines unto the said Mr Cary who is desired to call all partyes concerned herein before him, and to make such order therein as shalbe agreeable to Law and Justice, or else certify how he findeth the same att the next generall Sessions. [S.R., 88, 34.]

13. Whereas by an order of Taunton Sessions last one Thomas Morris was ordered during five yeares then next ensuing if one [ ] Kenchenton and his wife or cyther of them should so long liue to pay to the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of the parish of Henstridge to the use of the said Kenchenton and his wife, and the Survivor of them the sume of 40s<sup>h</sup>. at the fower usuall quarters of the yeare by equall portions ; and whereas the said Morris hath not as yett paid any part of the 40s<sup>h</sup>. ; and whereas it appeareth to this Court that the said Kenchenton is a person not able to govern himselve but much given to spending his estate without any regard to his said wife, This Court doth order that the said Morris shall forthwith pay unto the said churchwardens and overseers of the poore of Henstridge aforesaid soe much of the same 40s<sup>h</sup>. p. ann. as is incurred due since the granting of the said order of Taunton Sessions, and that for the future the said Morris shall pay the same 40s<sup>h</sup>. p. ann. to the said churchwardens and overseers of the poore of Henstridge aforesaid who are to pay and yssue forth the said money in forme following (to witt) xxs. p. ann. to the said Kenchenton and xxs<sup>h</sup>. p. ann. to his wife to bee ymployed to and for her owne use, and her husband not to haue to doe therewith ; and in case the said Morris shall refuse to give obedience to this order, John Carye Esq<sup>r</sup> is desired to bind ouer the said Morris to answeere for such his refusall. [S.R., 88, 32.]

14. Upon reading the petition of John Pickering of St Cutberts in Wells thereby shewing that Mary Pickering mother of the said petitioner dyed about a yeare since and left an estate in money and goods to the vallew of 67*li*. 10s<sup>h</sup>. most part

whereof shee gave unto the said petitioner by Will. But by reason of the weaknes and impotency of the said petitioner letters of administration of all the goods and chattells of the said Mary Pickering was taken by Matthew Pickering one other of the sons of the said Mary and Dorothy Phelps now the wife of one John Phelps. And whereas the said Matthew Pickering under colour of his being joynt administrator as aforesaid having gotten into his custody the most parte of the estate of the said Mary Pickering doth refuse to allow unto the petitioner any maintenance out of the same and he having reliefe onely of the parish of St Cutberts in Wells This Court doth desire the two next Justices of the peace to St Cutberts in Wells aforesaid to call all parties concerned herein before them and make such order for the reliefe of the petitioner as they shall thinke fitt, or otherwise to certify the true state of the case att the next Generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County. [S.R., 88, 35.]

15. Whereas by an order of Wells Sessions last this Court upon reading the petition of severall poore Inhabitants and tradesmen of the parish of Taunton St. James did direct the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of the said parish to rate and asseesse ye severall persons who enterteyne any journy-men, inmates, sojourners, and strangers not lawfully settled in the said parish the sume of 3*s*. 4*d*. by the weeke; and whereas a rate and assessment hath been accordingly made by the said churchwardens and overseers of ye poore of Taunton James aforesaid and severall persons therein named (to witt) George White, Matthew Rocke, Humfry Browne, John Radford, the widow Jeanes, Alexander Marks, John Bartlett, Henry Ramster, Roger Walker, Thomas Vinicombe, John Dibble, Thomas Dibble, Richard Snow, Peter Crosse, William Janes, Christopher Tratt, John Garinsh, Richard Dyer, John Bale, and Mrs. Sprague who haue severally enterteyned severall journy-men, inmates, sojourners, and strangers haue been severally rated att 3*s*. 4*d*. a weeke towards reliefe of the said poore of the said parish and the same rate hath been now presented unto this Court for approbation and confirmation, this Court doth therefore approve and confirme the same rate to all the intents and purposes mentioned in the said order of Wells Sessions last, and doth require all

persons concerned therein to yeeld obedience thereunto. [S.R., 88, 36.]

16. An order confirming an order settling a child at West Bagburrow. [S.R., 88, 37.]

17. An order for security to be given to the parishioners of the parishe of Upton for the saving harmless and indemnifyng the parishe of Upton of and from the four daughters of Thomas Sulley and their nine children. [S.R., 88, 38.]

18. An order for settling a child in the parish of Wanstrowe, And for that it also appeareth that the parish of Wanstrow is not able without some assistance to releve their poore, this Court doth thinke meet and order that the said parish of Kilmington shall from henceforth weekly and every weeke pay unto ye said parish of Wanstrow the sume of 8*d*. towards releefe of the poore of the same parish of Wanstrow, this payment to continue untill the said base child shall attaine to itt's age of 7 yeares and no longer. [S.R., 88, 49.]

19. Upon consideration had of the condition of John Love of Freshford in this county the Treasurer of the maymed souldiers shall pay unto him for his present releef ten shillings and the said Love is not to receiue any further reliefe from this Court. [S.R., 88, 50.]

20. Upon reading of the petition of the parishioners of Abbotts Combe in this County thereby shewing that the same is a poore parish, and hath many poore and that there is a house and demeanes within the said parish of a good vallew which doe pay to all payments with the rest of the said parish except onely to church and poore which ye present occupyers thereof who hold the same by Lease doe refuse to pay ; Referred to the next Justices to determine the same by order, or otherwise to certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions. [S.R., 88, 51.]

21. Upon consideration had of the low estate of Mrs. Bridgett

Robinson widow late wife of Mr. John Robinson deceased late Minister of Banwell and her five children which said Mr. Robinson left noe estate att all behind him to mainteyne his said wife and children save only certen arreares of tythes and other duties to him due and owing by severall of the parishioners which the said parishioners did refuse to pay to the said Mr. Robinson in his life time or to the said widdow since his death ; This Court doth thinke fitt and so order that the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of ye said parishe of Banwell shall forthwith make a rate whereby they shall taxe the severall parishioners with the sume of 7s/l. weekly to be paid unto the said Mrs. Robinson towards the reliefe of herselfe and her children, and that they the said Churchwardens and overseers of the poore shall forthwith repayre to the two next Justics of the peace to Banwell aforesaid to haue their consent to the said rate which weekly payment of 7s/l. is to continue and bee paid untill the said Mrs. Robinson and her children shalbe satisfyed and the s<sup>d</sup> arreares of tythes and other duties due to her said husband as aforesaid or shalbe otherwise provided for, or that further order bee taken to the contrary. And this Court doth thinke fitt and so order that such persons of ability as are in arreare for their said tythes and other duties shalbe charged most highly towards the taxe aforesaid. [S.R., 88, 52.]

22. In respect of the smallnes of the severall parishes of Thurloxton and Michaell Church in this County this Court doth unite the same parishes to the parishe of North Petherton in the same County as to all matters contained in a certen Act of the last parliament of the 24th of August which was in the yeare of our Lord 1653 Entituled an Act touching Marriages and the registering thereof, and also touching births and burialls ; and doth order and adjudge that from henceforth the said severall parishes of North Petherton, Thurloxton, and Michaell Church shalbe as to the matters onely within the said Act accompted and taken to bee but one parish which shalbe called or knowne by the name of the parishe of North Petherton, and have onely one Register as to the matters aforesaid, which shalbe called the parish Register of North Petherton. [S.R., 88, 53.]

23. The like order for Michaell Creech, Durston and Ryson [Ruishton].

The like order for Castle Carye & Alnesford.

The like order for St. Johns Glaston, and St. Benedicts Glaston.

24. Upon reading an Order made by John Harrington, John Aish, and Thomas Blackborne Esq<sup>rs</sup>, Thomas Saunders son of Edward Saunders of Weston in the said County who was to have served one George Horte as an apprentice for seven years to be discharged from his apprenticeship, but the examination of this business referred to the two next Justices to Weston, to end the difference twixt them by an amicable mediation if they can, or otherwise to certify this Court how they find the same att the next Generall Sessions. [S.R., 88, 39].

25. An order made by John Buckland and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Midsomer Norton in the keeping of Margaretta. Dated the 11th day of January, 1653.

26. An order made by Giles Strangewayes and John Carye Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Butleigh for the keeping of William. Dated the 8th day of October, 1652.

27. An order made by Edward Ceely and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 5th day of October 1653 for the bringing up and keeping of Joane Webber born in the parish of Thorne Faulcon.

28. An order made by John Carye and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of a child born in the parish of East Lydford. Dated the 6th day of October 1653.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF OLIVER, LORD PROTECTOR OF  
THE COMMON WEALTH OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND  
IRELAND, AND THE DOMINIONS THERETO BELONGING,  
HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT IVELCHESTER in the



same County on Tuesday, that is to say, the fowerth day of Aprill in the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred fifty and fower, Before John Buckland, Richard Jones, Henry Bonner, John Cary, Richard Bovett, John Gutch, George Sampson, John Gorges, and Edward Ceely, Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

1. Upon the petition of one Alice Galloway widdow whose husband lost his life in the parliaments service she being very poore and not able to mainteyne her children ; Referred to the two next Justices of the peace who are desired to call the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the said parish before them and to make such order therein for the poor womans relief as they shall think meet.

2. Forasmuch as John Laffan *als* Laugharne hath bin convicted of petty larceny att this Sessions and brought hither att the charges of some of the Inhabitants of Mynehead in this County ; and forasmuch as this Court is informed that the said John Laffan *als* Laugharne hath some wearing apparell in the hands of some other of the Inhabitants of Mynehead aforesaid ; The next Justice of the peace to Minehead to make such order for the satisfaction of the said inhabitants at whose charge he was conveyed by sale of the said apparel and by returning the overplus to the said Laffan *als* Laugharne as he shall think fit according to law.

3. Upon hearinge of the difference between the severall parishes of Exton, Cutcombe and Timberscombe in this County touching the settlement of twoe young children borne of the body of one Ellenor Ewens lately deceased, forasmuch as neither of the said parishes are att present prepared with evidence touching the same ; The two children to remain at Exton until the next general Sessions ; att which said next Sessions this Court doth intend to proceed to a finall settlement therein.

4. The difference between the several parishes of Compton, Dundon and Somerton touching the settlement of one Mary Sparry and a base child ; forasmuch as neither of the said

parishes are at present prepared with evidence, to be determined at the next Sessions.

5. The present Treasurer of maymed souldiers before the next General Sessions to present unto Edward Ceely, Richard Bovett, John Gorges and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup> a perfect list of the same pensioners, who or any two of them are hereby desired to view over the same list and consider what persons ought to be continued in pension and how much they ought respectively to receive.

6. Thomas Sully of Upton having made default in appearing at this Sessions his Recognizance is to be estreated.

7. Upon reading of the petition of the inhabitants of Southbarrowe shewing that one Roger Parfitt having had with his wife a considerable portion which by his lewd life he hath spent and his wife and children are likely to be chargeable to the said parish, there being only left to relieve them the sum of sixe pounds ten shillings. And upon information made to this Court that the said Parfitt lyeth in goale for severall abuses offered to his said wife by him the Parfitt; The said Parfitt to remain in the said gaol until he shall find good sureties for his good behaviour, and the said 6*li*. 10*s* *h*. to be paid to the Churchwardens and overseers for the relief of the said wife and children of the said Parfitt.

8. John Blinman of Shepton Mallett gent to be Governor of the House of Correction at Shepton Mallett.

9. Roger Hill of Taunton gent chosen Treasurer of the Maymed souldiers for the year next ensuing in the place and room of Thomas Blackborne Esq<sup>r</sup> deceased the late Treasurer.

10. Henry Davy of North Curry, bound by Recognizance to appear here, within a fortnight next after this present Sessions to take and receive Robert Somers as his apprentice from the parishioners by indenture twixt them; which if he shall refuse to do, the next justice of the peace to North Curry to commit the said Henry Davy to the Common Gaol there to remaine untill hee shall conforme hereunto.

11. Forasmuch as John Laffan *als.* Laugharne hath bin convicted for a wandering person This Court doth order and require that he bee forthwith sent the next way from parish to parish by the officers of each parish to Mynehead in this County and from thence to be transported into Ireland with the first conveniency The said person being allowed five dayes and noe more for such his travell to Mynehead.

To the Constables of the Burrough of Ivelchester and all other officers whome these presents may concerne.

12. Upon the petition of the Inhabitants of the parish of Lamyatt and the oathes of Hugh Corpe and William Webbe that the high wayes within the same parish are sufficiently repayred ; Ordered that all indictments and presentments which now are against the said inhabitants of the parish of Lamyat for Nusances and non repaire of highwayes bee discharged.

13. Mr James Hayes of Beckington chosen Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Eastern Division in the place of Mr. George Millard the late Treasurer, and John Carye and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> are desired to take the accompt of the s<sup>d</sup> late Treasurer.

14. Mr Christopher Pittard of the parish of Martocke chosen Treasurer of the hospitals of the Western Division in room of Mr Jonathan Pitt the late Treasurer [ ] are desired to take the accompt of the said late Treasurer.

15. Upon the instance of George Lutterell Esq<sup>r</sup> late Sherriffe of this County This Court doth nominate and appoynt John Buckland, Richard Jones, William Smyth and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> or two of them (one being of the Quorum) to viewe & affeire the Estreates of this County for his year.

16. Forasmuch as a certen bridge called Gabridge bowe lying within this County is not sufficiently repaired although severall orders have bin made for the repaire thereof ; and whereas severall persons were appoynted by the Orders Supvisors for the repaying of the said bridge which said Supvisors have contracted with severall workemen for the repaire of the same bridge ; Referred to Henry Bonner, John Carye, and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup>

or one of them to convene y<sup>e</sup> said Supervisors and also such persons who undertooke the repaire of the said bridge before him or them, and to make such order for the repaire of the said bridge as they or he shall thinke fitt.

17. This Court upon hearing of the difference twixt the Inhabitants of the parishe of Hardington and one John Sandford touching moneyes received by the said Sandford towards the reliefe of the poore Protestants in Ireland doth by the consent of the said inhabitants and the said Sandford desire M<sup>r</sup> Benedict Blagdon, M<sup>r</sup> Henry Browne, M<sup>r</sup> Ford, and M<sup>r</sup> Salmon to send for the said Sandford and for some of the sufficientest of y<sup>e</sup> said Inhabitants and to end the difference twixt them if they can, and certify this Court how they find the same att the next generall Sessions.

18. Whereas Thomas Blackborne Esq<sup>r</sup> was by this Court att Ivelchester Sessions last nominated and chosen Treasurer for the maymed souldiers of this County and the said M<sup>r</sup> Blackborne being sithence deceased M<sup>r</sup> [ ] Cornish son in Lawe unto the said M<sup>r</sup> Blackborne was by this Court chosen Treasurer for the remayninge parte of the said yeare in the place and roome of the said M<sup>r</sup> Blackborne which yeare is now expired ; John Cary and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> desired to call before them the said M<sup>r</sup> Cornish and take accompt of his receipts and disbursements.

19. The Treasurer of Hospitals for the Eastern Division (upon the certificate of John Gutch Esq<sup>r</sup>) ordered to pay M<sup>r</sup> Blynman Keeper of the House of Correction at Shepton Mallett £8-3-9 the sum laid out and expended by him in the reparation of the said House of Correction.

20. Upon Complaint made unto this Court by the Surveyors for the reparations of a bridge called Freshford bridge (which bridge is to be repaired att the charges of the same County) that severall Constables and others collectors appointed to collect severall sumes of money ordered for the repairing of the said bridge have neglected to pay in the same, by meanes whereof the service in carrying on of the worke of repairing of the said bridge is very much retarded and neglected ; Ordered that all

such Constables and other collectors that have not collected the several sums of money imposed on their several hundreds within this County for the repairing of the said bridge that they forthwith collect the same.

The Accompt of Giles Strangeways Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for the maymed souldiers of the County aforesaid for the yeare 1652.

Disbursed to a poore souldier travelling to the Lord Generall 00-05-00. &c.

List of the pensioners paid by Giles Strangeways Esq<sup>r</sup>; the number of names is 75. The total receipts were 308*li.* 17*sh.* 7½*d.*; and the payments were 300*li.* 8*sh.* 6¼*d.*

“ The wages for labourers and others.”

	<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Men servants p ann ... ..	04	00	00
Maid servants ... ..	01	13	04
Mowers p Die finding themselves meat & Drinke ... ..	00	01	04
Mowers att meat and drinke ... ..	00	00	08
Men making hay p diem finding themselues	00	00	10
Men making hay att meate and drinke ...	00	00	04
Women making hay finding themselues ...	00	00	05
Women att meat & drinke ... ..	00	00	03
Men finding themselves att Corne harvest p die ... ..	00	01	02
Women finding themselues p Diem ... ..	00	00	08
Men att meate & drinke p Diem ... ..	00	00	06
Women att meate & drinke ... ..	00	00	04
Masons carpenters & tylers finding them- selues p Die ... ..	00	01	00
Masons carpenters & tylers att meat & drinke ... ..	00	00	06
Threshers, dykers p diem finding them- selues ... ..	00	00	10
Threshers & dykers att meate & drinke ...	00	00	05



The Account of Thomas Blackborne Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for maymed souldiers within the County aforesaid for the yeare 1653.

*Receipts* [of the Constables of the Hundreds].

The disbursements of Thomas Blackborne Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for the maymed souldiers for the yeare 1653.

[Names of Pensioners.]

An accompt of all the Receipts and disbursements of the Hospitall money of the Easterne Division of this County for the yeare of our Lord 1654 James Hayes treasurer.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT THE CASTLE OF TAUNTON, in the said County on Tuesday (that is to say) the Eleaventh day of July in the yeare of our Lord 1654, Before S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Wroth, Kn<sup>t</sup>., John Turbervill, John Gorges, Richard Bovett, Thomas Gorges, Edward Ceely, Thomas Siderfyn, John Carye, Will<sup>m</sup> Smyth, John Barker, George Searle, Henry Bonner, John Gutch, George Sampson, Esq<sup>rs</sup>., Justices.

1. Forasmuch as Elizabeth Croyden, widdow, John Otis, Adrianah Croyden, William Symes and Mary his wife, were bound by severall recognizances to appeare at this Sessions for severall offences against the publique peace ; and forasmuch also as there are severall indictments wherein they are severally indicted, this Court by the consent of all the said partyes doth thinke fitt to respitt the said severall recognizances and also the tryalls of the said severall persons upon the said severall indictments untill the next generall Sessions, and in the meane time doth desire John Carye and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> to mediate the difference twixt the partyes if they can, or else to certify the true state thereof att the said next generall Sessions.

2. Upon reading of the petition of Katherine Hurt daughter of Thomas Haddon of Michaell Creech in this County

Yeoman, shewing that she is in very great want, being a poore lame aged sickly body, and like to perish for want (the said Thomas Haddon her said father having att least 60*li.* p. ann. and having never paid one penny portion with her and yett hath deteyned from her a portion given her by her grandmother; The said Thomas Haddon shall forthwith pay unto the said Katherine Hurt towards her maintenance the sum of 1*s.* 6*d.* weekly untill the next Generall Sessions of the peace, and soe to continue from thence forwards unles the said Thomas Haddon shall att the next Sessions shew unto this Court good cause to the contrary.

3. Upon hearing of the petition of the Inhabitants of the parish of Barrington in this County touchinge one Roger Collins who with his wife and two children lyeth lurking in and about the parish of Barrington aforesaid, they being noe wayes settled there, this Court doth declare that the being of the said Collins his wife and children att Barrington aforesaid shall not be interpreted to be a settlement of them there.

4. Upon full hearing and debating of the difference between the severall parishes of King's Brompton and Brushford in this County touching the settlement of one Mary Blackmore; The said Mary Blackmore be and doe stand absolutely settled att Brushford aforesaid.

5. The parishioners of Puckington forthwith to pay all arrears of the sum of 12*s.* a week payable to Thomas Parker a poor impotent person in pursuance of an order made at Bridgwater Sessions in the year 1650.

6. Upon the petition of the inhabitants of the parish of Bishops Liddeard in this County that severall yssues laid out upon the inhabitants of the parish of Halse and the Inhabitants of ye tything called the free tything within the parish of Bishops Liddiard att severall Sessions held for this County for not repaying a certen bridge called Halsewood bridge haue bin levied on Nicholas Turner and William Studdier of the parish of Bishops Leddiard but not Inhabitants of the said tything called free tything; The two next Justices to Bishops Liddeard afore-

said to call all partyes before them and to make such order therein as to them shall seeme meet.

7. Upon reading the petition of the inhabitants of West Munchton in this County shewing that one Edward Musgrau who is now Constable within the said parish and one Edward Rich now tythingman there are not onely persons disabled to act in the said offices by reason of their severall disaffections to the present Government, but also by their great and grosse neglects of their said offices haue occasioned the increase of vice by countenancing drunkennes, multiplicity of alehouses and prophanation of the Sabbath, to the great dishonor of God and grieve of honest men, the contents of which said petition this Court hath examined and doth find to be true; The said Edward Musgrau and Edward Rich to be from henceforth discharged and removed from their said severall and respective offices. [S.R., 90, 34.]

8. Certain differences between Thomas Parker of West Hatch and one Michaell Dyer referred to Edward Ceely Esq<sup>r</sup> to mediate the difference twixt them if he can, and to deal with the said Dyer in such manner as he shall thinke fitt as to law and ustice shall apperteyne.

9. Upon readinge the petition of Matthew Skinner of Milverton touching a Legacy of 5*l*. deteyned from him by one Agnes Satchell the Relict of one Matthew Satchell; John Turbervill Esq<sup>r</sup> to call all parties concerned herein before him, and to end the difference twixt the said parties if he can, or else to certify the true state thereof att the next Generall Sessions.

10. Upon reading of the petition of Thomas Smyth thereby shewing that he did serve an apprentice with one John Certaine of the parish of Rode in this County by the space of Seaven yeares and was afterwards married att Cloford in the said County where the Petitioner was borne; The said Smith to be and stand settled att Rode aforesaid, and the parishoners of the said parish of Rode aforesaid are to provide for the said Smyth accordingly

unless they shall on notice of this order shew good cause to the contrary att the next General Sessions.

11. Upon reading the petition of Henry Yawe of North Petherton thereby shewing that the sume of five pounds sixe shillings hath bin levyed upon the petitioner (being an inhabitant of the said Parish of North Petherton) for amerciaments laid on the same parish for non repaire of highwaies; A rate to be forthwith made by the Constables Churchwardens and some of the sufficientest inhabitants of the said parish for the raysing and levyng of the said sume of five pounds and sixe shillings.

12. Upon hearing of a Complaint made to this Court on the behalfe of one Grace Roode of Pitney in this County a poore orphan against Roger Roode of Streete who hath deteyned severall goods from her under the pretence of his being administrator during the minority of the said Grace of the goods of one Danyell Roode her father deceased the said Grace being a poore and impotent creature This Courth doth referre the examination and determination thereof to John Baker and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup>, who are desired to end the same if they can, or else to certify how they find the same att the next Generall Sessions.

13. Upon reading the petition of Richard Hole and Johane his wife of Liddiard Laurence touching certen goods and moneys deteyned from them by one Elizabeth Pym; Thomas Gorges and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> to end the difference if they can by "an amicable mediacon" or certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions.

14. Upon reading the petition of the inhabitants of the parish of Milverton thereby shewing that they are much overcharged with the abundance of poore which daily increaseth to the great and almost insupportable burthen of the petitioners (their other taxes considered); John Turbervill and Thomas Gorges to make such order therein as they shall think fit or certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions, &c.

15. Upon reading of the petition of some of the parishioners of North Petherton thereby shewing that one Mr. Hand being

desired by severall honest people of the said parish to preach on the second day of July last (being the Lord's Day), and there being many persons to the number of 300 who came then to heare the said Mr Hand, one Edmond Jeffery and Richard Porter Churchwardens of the said parish opposed the said Mr Hand and caused the doores of the parish church to be locked up; and upon oath made of the truth of the said petition, Theis are therefore to will and require you forthwith on sight hereof to apprehend the bodyes of the said Edmond and Richard and them safely to carry to the Common goale att Ivelchester there to remaine unles they shall before some or one of the Justices of the peace of this County find sufficient security for their appearance att the next Generall Sessions of the peace to be held for this County. Hereof fayle nott att your peril. To y<sup>e</sup> Constables of the hundred of North Petherton and all other officers whom theis presents shall concerne.

16. Upon the petition of one Richard Hillard, the Treasurer of maymed souldiers to pay unto the petitioner the sum of xs<sup>s</sup>/.

17. Upon the petition of one William Hussey; the petitioner shall receive of the Treasurer of maymed souldiers the yearly pension of fower Markes formerly ordered to be paid to one James Shattock as a maymed souldier of this County towards the maintenance of the said Shattocks child.

18. Upon hearing of the Inhabitants of the parish of Combe Flory in this County touching the settlement of one John Gregory *als* Pynn and his wife and five children who came lately out of the parish of Leddiard Laurence and haue taken a house in Combe Flory aforesaid for a yeare but were disturbed ymediatly upon their coming to Combe Flory by the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of Combe Flory aforesaid. This Court doth declare that the being of the said John Gregory *als* Pynn and his wife and children att Combe Flory shall not bee interpreted to bee a settlement of them there.

19. Upon reading of the petition of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of Hillfarrance in this County touching



one Thomas Webber late of Wivelscombe who with his wife and children came about three monethes since to Hillfarrance and inhabited in a poore cottage with one George Appledore as an inmate which said Webber is likely to become chargeable to the said parish of Hilfarrance; John Turberville and Thomas Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup> to examine the matter of the said petition and make such order therein as they shall thinke meet. [S.R., 90, 10.]

20. Upon reading of the petition of one John Baker of Fiddington and Thomas Baker his son that they haue paid 15s<sup>h</sup>. and 2s., and one Henry Mason has paid ten shillings more for ameracements laid on the tything of Stath in the parish of Gregory Stoke in this County for not setting up of a paire of stocks in the said tything according to severall orders of the Court Leete there which stocks are not yett sett up; Order that the most sufficient of the inhabitants of the said Tything or any two or more of them shall forthwith meet and make a Rate for the raysing of the said severall sumes of 15s<sup>h</sup>., 2s<sup>h</sup>., and 10s<sup>h</sup>. for the reimbursing of the said John Baker, Thomas Baker, and Henry Mason.

21. Upon hearing of a complaint made unto this Court that one Robert Redwood a poore fatherless child bound apprentice to William Morris of Brewton in this County y[eoman] by the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of Brewton aforesaid with the consent of two Justices of the peace of the County aforesaid which said William Morris hath not performed that duty of the said apprentice which he ought but hath putt the said apprentice out of his service, and endeavoured to haue transported him to ye Barbados against the goodwill of the said parish of Brewton hee having in order to his transportacon caused him to be putt on shipboard; ordered that the said Robert Redwood shall from henceforth be absolutely discharged from his said apprenticeship with the said William Morris.

22. Upon reading the petition of the Mayor Burgesses and other Inhabitants of the Borough of Taunton whereby they desire that a house formerly licensed by this Court to sell ale and beere lying within the Castle of Taunton wherein one [Blank]

now dwelleth might bee suppressed from selling any more ale or beere in respect there is much disorder committed in the same house the same standing in a place noe way fitting either for travellers or the Markett (the neerenes of the towne being sufficient to supply both) and being also att that distance from the view of the Officers of Hillbishops (in which parish the said houselyes) manie irregularities are there mainteyned uncontrouled.

The said [Blank] ordered to be suppressed from selling any more ale or beere in ye house where he now liveth.

23. Whereas Anne Martin and Joseph Martin her son haue bin both bound to appeare att this present Sessions by recognizance for beating of one Baldwyn Chambers one of the Supervisors of the highwaies of Wellington and for receuing a distresse by him taken of the goods of the said Anne Martin for not paying the sume on her rates towards the repaire of the said highwaies; And whereas severall differences and suites of law are like to arise touching the same; Referred by the Court by the mutual consent of all the said parties to Thomas Gorges and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup>, who are desired to end the same differences if they can and if they cannot end the same, then to certify this Court how they find the same att the next General Sessions.

24. Two young children borne of the body of one Ellinor Ewens lately deceased to be settled at Exton and the severall parishes of Cutcombe and Timberscombe to be freed and discharged from the same children.

25. Upon reading of the petition of one John Shorland that he was borne att Ashbrittle in this County where he lived for the space of 54 yeares, and then went and lived att Cleevhanger in the County of Devon by the space of two yeares and is since returned to Ashbrittle, and the parishioners of Ashbrittle doe refuse to receaue him; The said John Shorland be forthwith removed to Cleevhanger [Clayhanger] aforesaid there to be settled according to law, and that the said parish of Ashbrittle be absolutely discharged and freed from the said John Shorland.

26. Upon hearing of the petition of Agnes Elliott of Gregory Stoke widdow that about sixteen Moneths since Thomas Elliott

the petitioners husband did take one Thomas West a poore child of the said parish apprentice according to the Statute, since which time the petitioners husband is deceased and the petitioner being poore is unable to keep the said apprentice ; The said Agnes Ellyott be from henceforth absolutely freed and discharged from the said apprentice.

27. Forasmuch as John Odams of Taunton St James and Anne his wife stand indicted in this Court for an offence against the publique peace to which indictment they haue not yett appeared ; theis are therefore on the behalfe of his highnes Oliver Lord Protector of the Common Wealth of England Scotland and Ireland strictly to charge and require you forthwith upon sight hereof to apprehend the bodies of the said John and Anne, and them safely to bring to this present generall Sessions of the peace here att Taunton now held to answer the said indictment.

Hereof laye nott att your peril.

Dated at the s<sup>d</sup> Generall Sessions of the peace held att Taunton aforesaid the Eleaventh Day of July 1654.

The Con<sup>bles</sup> of Taunton St James and all other officers whom theis presents may concerne.

28. A warrant issued in the name of his highnes the Lord Protector for the apprehension of Amias Bampfild of Weston Bampfild gent. and in default of his giving security for. his appearance at the next General Sessions to convey him to the Common gaol at Ivelchester. The like Warrant against John Bond of [Blank] for being the reputed father of a child.

29. Upon hearing of the difference betweene the Inhabitants of the parish of Bradway (Broadway) and one John Howse who was administrator of one Edmond Penny deceased touching one [Blank] who was bound apprentice to the said Penny by the Inhabitants of Bradway aforesaid It appearing to this Court that the said Mr Howse hath noe reall nor sufficient personall estate of the said Edmond Penny, doth thinke fitt and soe order that the said Mr Howse shalbe absolutely discharged and freed from the said apprentice.

30. Upon reading the petition of John Stooke of Bishops Leddiard thereby shewing that one Richard Syle having brought an action in the County Court against the petitioner for certain goods, upon which action the said Syle had satisfaction made him by the said Stooke, whereupon the said Syle promised that the said petitioner should be freed from any amercement yssuing out of the said Court; notwithstanding the said Syle hath suffered the said Stooke to be amerced in the said Court and his goods taken to satisfy the amerciament amounting in all to three pounds; John Turbervill Esq<sup>r</sup> to end the same by amicable mediation if he can, or certify how he finds the same att the next generall Sessions.

31. Upon the hearing of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Taunton that one John Gellett and his wife and family haue lately come out of the parish of Hilbishops in this County where he was borne and hath lived untill of late, that he hath sheltred himselfe in and about the towne of Taunton;

The said John Gellett his wife and family shall be forthwith removed from Taunton to Hilbishops and there to remain until the next general Sessions and from thenceforth afterwards, unless the Inhabitants of Hilbishops shall at the next General Sessions shew good cause to the contrary.

32. Upon reading of the petition of the poore people Inhabitants of the hospitall of Curry Rivell in this County that they are very poore and their allowance very small and their habitations ready to fall for want of reparations This Court doth order that Mr Jonathan Pitts the late Treasurer of the hospitalls of the western division of this County shall reteyne ten pounds of the hospitall money in his hands and in case he hath not soe much in his hands then the present Treasurer shall pay to the said Mr Pitts the sume of Ten pounds or soe much thereof as the said Mr Pitts hath not in his hands; Which said Mr Pitts is desired by this Court that he will yssue forth the same moneyes for the reparations of the said hospitall and otherwise as he shall think meete and the s<sup>d</sup> Mr Pitts and the present Treasurer is to bee allowed the same uppon their accompts.

33. Upon hearing of a Complaint made by the Inhabitants of

the Towne of Taunton that one Zachary Wannell and his wife are lately come from Wilton into the towne of Taunton where they haue been denyed a residence and they ly upp and downe in barnes and hay lofts, the said Wannells wife being great with child; The said Wannell and his wife to be forthwith sent to Wilton and there to continue until the next General Sessions. [The usual alternative]. The being of the said Wannill and his wife at Wilton not to be interpreted as a settlement of them there.

34. Upon reading of the petition of Penzellwood desiring to haue a contribution from the neighbouring parishoners towards the reparation of the highwaies of Penzellwood aforesaid, the charges thereof in Penzellwood rising to a farre greater sume then the pound rate of the same parish amounts unto; The two next Justices to Penzellwood to examine the true state of the case and to certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions. [S.R., 90, 2.]

35. John Barker and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> appointed to take the Accompt of Mr Jonathan Pitt [*sic*] the late Treasurer of the hospitals for the Western Division of this County.

36. The like order for Mr Carye and Mr Gutch to take the accompt of Mr George Millard late Treasurer of the hospitals for the Eastern Division of this County.

37. The order of Ivelchester Sessions last whereby it was ordered that a list of the pensioners and maymed souldiers of this County should before this present Sessions presented to Edward Ceely, Richard Bovett, John Gorges, and George Sampson were thereby desired to view over the same list and consider what persons ought to bee continued in pension and how much they ought respectively to receive, This Court finding that the same order hath not been putt into execution, doth now order that the said list of pensioners and maymed souldiers shall forthwith be presented to Mr Carye and Mr Smyth who are by this Court desired that taking to their assistance Mr Hugh Gunston, Mr John Davys and Mr Peter Quarle all of Taunton they or any two of them shall view over the said list.



38. Upon reading of an order made att Wells Sessions last whereby the severall parishes of Michael Creech, Durston, and Ryson [Ruishton] were united as to all matters conteyned in a certain Act of the last Parliament of the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1653 Entitled an Act touching Marriages and the registering thereof; Now this Court being informed that the said three severall parishes are of too large extent to be united into one, doth think fitt and soe order that the said parish of Ryson shalbe accompted to be a parish of itt selfe, and shall haue a Register of itt selfe.

39. Upon reading of the petition of the greater parte of the parishoners of Overstowey in this Countie hereby complayning of some undue practises by some of the parishoners of the said parish in y<sup>e</sup> making of the rates for collecting of the moneyes towards the reparation of the church and reliefe of the poore within the said parish by reason whereof many differences doe arise, and y<sup>e</sup> collecting of moneyes for y<sup>e</sup> purposes aforesaid much retarded and neglected;

That the said Rates soe made as aforesaid shall stand and bee in full force untill the next generall Sessions; and in the meane tyme doth desire Thomas Kempsland of Charlinch Joseph Wickham of Stogursey and John Eames of Strington to view the said Rates and survey y<sup>e</sup> estates of such persons soe rated and to examine the equallity and inequallity of the same, and to certify this Court of such their doings herein att the said next Sessions, To the intent the same may then be approved of and allowed.

40. Upon Complaint made to this Court by the Inhabitants of the parish of Taunton James in this County that the sume of xij<sup>l</sup>. was lately levyed by the Greenwaxe gatherer of this County on y<sup>e</sup> said Inhabitants for non repairing of a bridge called [ ] lying within the said parish; Order that the Churchwardens and overseers make a rate upon all the Inhabitants.

An order made by John Buckland and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Publoe and for keeping of Roger; dated the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 1654.

An order made by John Cary and John Gutch for the relief of a child born at Pollard [Compton Dundon]; dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July 1654. [S.R., 89, 16.]

An order made by John Gutch and William Smyth for the relief of a child born in the parish of Shepton Mallett [father described as "Burler"]; dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 1654.

An Order made by Henry Bonner and Geo. Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Merryott; dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 1654.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR THE COUNTIE AFORESAID ATT BRIDGEWATER in the same County on Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangell (to witt y<sup>e</sup> third day of October in the year of our Lord 1654 Before Sir Thomas Wroth Kt, John Turberville, John Pallmer Doctor of Phisicke, John Barker, Henry Bonner, John Gutch, John Carye, Thomas Syderfin, Richard Bovett, William Smyth, and George Lutterell, Esq<sup>rs</sup>, Justics assigned to keepe the publique peace in the aforesaid County.

1. Upon reading the petition of Richard Cookesley of Ashbrittle shewing that he is married in the said parish and the said parish endeavour to haue him removed from thence although hee is no way chargeable, this Court doth see noe cause but that the said Cookesley may remaine att Ashbrittle aforesaid; Provided that his being there shall not bee interpreted to bee a settlement of him there.

2. Upon reading of an order made att Taunton Sessions last grounded on a petition of the Inhabitants of the parish of Penzellwood thereby desiring a contribution from the parishioners of y<sup>e</sup> neighboring parishes towards the reparation of the highwaies of Penzellwood; and upon hearing M<sup>r</sup> Carye one of the Justices of the peace of this County to whom the examination of the busines was referred itt appearing that the neighbouring

parishes are Charleton Musgrave, Cucklington, Stoke Trister and Kilmington which said parishes of Charleton Musgrave and Stoke Trister have contributed towards the reparation of the highwaies of the said parish of Penzellwood, this Court upon hearing what hath been alleadged by the Inhabitants of the said two other parishes of Cucklington and Kilmington doth thinke fitt and soe order that the said parishes of Cucklington and Kilmington shall contribute with the said parishes of Charleton Musgrave and Stoke Trister towards the reparation of the said highwaies within the parish of Penzlewood aforesaid.

3. The matter of the petition of Ellinor Butt widdow referred unto George Sampson and John Barker Esq<sup>rs</sup> to call all such persons before them as are concerned and to doe therein according to law and justice.

4. Upon reading of an order of Taunton Sessions last whereby the then present rates of Overstowey to the same order annexed were ordered to stand in full force untill this Sessions; Now upon hearing some of the parishioners both such are were for and also some who were against the said rates, and for that nothing hath been don in pursuance of the said order, this Court doth think fitt to confirm the said Rates to all intents and purposes, &c.

5. Upon reading the petition of the Inhabitants of Milverton thereby shewing y<sup>t</sup> they are overcharged with the abundance of poore which daily increaseth to the great and almost insupportable burthen of the petitioners (their other taxes considered); John Turbervill and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> to make such order therein as they shall think fitt or certify this Court how they find the same at the next General Sessions &c.

6. Upon reading of an order made att Bridgewater Sessions last whereby the parishioners of Puckington were ordered to pay all arrears of xij<sup>d</sup> p. weeke towards the reliefe of Thomas Parker a poore impotent youth borne in the parishe of West Hatch; It now appearing to this Court that a composition was made betweene y<sup>e</sup> parishioners of Puckington aforesaid and the over-

seers of the poore of West Hatch for the sume of 5*l*. in full satisfaction of the said xij<sup>d</sup> per weeke, and that 40<sup>s</sup>. of the same 5*l*. was thereupon paid and a bond given for payment of the iij*l*. residue, which bond pretended to bee lost, the parent of the said Parker nevertheless now demaunded the arreares of the s<sup>d</sup> xij*l*. p. weeke ; this Court doth therefore thinke fitt and soe order that the parishioners of Puckington shall forthwith pay into the hands of Richard Bovett Esq<sup>r</sup> the same iij*l*. there to remaine untill the bond before mentioned shalbe delivered up to bee cancelled or a release sufficient in the Law shalbe given thereupon and upon such delivery up the said bond or giving such release, the said Mr Richard Bovett is to pay over the said iij*l*. to the parents of the said child ; and the parishioners of Puckington aforesaid shall then likewise pay such damages for deteyning of the said iij*l*. and costs expended in and about the obteyning thereof att severall Quarter Sessions as the said Mr Richard Bovett shall reasonably tax and asseesse ; and lastly this Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that the said parish of Puckington shalbe absolutely discharged of and from the said Parker.

7. John Gillett and his wife and family who were by order of Taunton Sessions last ordered to remaine att Hilbishops till this present Sessions, it being nowe offered and proved by Hilbishops that since the last Sessions the said Gillett his wife and family have lived in a house within the parish of Taunton Magdalen afores<sup>d</sup> which he hath rented for his money ; This Court doth not see cause to remove the said Gillett and his wife and family from Taunton Magdalen aforesaid ; but doth order that the being of the said Gillett and his wife and family att Taunton Magdalen shall not bee interpreted to be a settlement of them there.

8. Upon reading of the petition of the Inhabitants of Taunton James shewing that one George Palmer a Baker and Inneholder of the said parish is chosen to be Constable there, both which professions beinge subject to abuses the petitioners conceive the professor not soe fitt an instrument to punish others and doe therefore desire to have another person chosen in the roome of the said Palmer ; Referred to the two next Justices of

the peace to Taunton James aforesaid to doe therein as they in justice shall think fitt. [S.R., 89, 17.]

9. Forasmuch as Charles Butler was lately apprehended and taken wandering for which he hath been punished by whipping according to Lawe, and uppon his examination itt appearing that the said Butler with his wife came out of Ireland and landed att West Chester This Court doth order that the said Butler with his wife and child be forthwith sent the next way from parish to parish by the officers of each parish to West Chester aforesaid and from thence to be transported into Ireland with the first conveniency, the said Butler his wife and child being allowed xx dayes and noe more for such their travel to West Chester.

To y<sup>e</sup> Constables of the Burrough of Bridgewater and all other officers whom theis presents shall concerne.

10. The like for Thomas Peyton to be sent to Milford and from thence to Ireland allowing him ten dayes.

11. Upon hearing the difference between the inhabitants of the tything of Allampton in y<sup>e</sup> parish of Ditchett in this County and one Elizabeth Whitehead of the same parish who is the grandmother of a base child borne of the body of one Rose Gillingham widdow which said Rose Gillingham is gone away, for that it doth apeare that the said grandmother is not sufficiently able to mainteyne the said child; This Court in that respect doth discharge the said Elizabeth Whitehead and doth order the churchwardens and overseers of y<sup>e</sup> poore of the said parish to take care to provide for the said base child according to lawe.

12. Upon reading the petition of one Richard Cornishe who hath lived for the space of theis 3 yeares att the parish of Hatch Beachampe of late the parishioners of the said parish have disturbed the being of the said Cornishe there the next Justice of the Peace to Hatch Beachampe desired to examine the business and to do therein as to law and justice shall appertain.



13. Whereas severall differences being dependinge between Elizabeth Croyden widdow, John Otis, Adriana Croyden, William Syms and Mary his wife, and the s<sup>d</sup> Elizabeth, John Otis Adriana William Syms and Mary his wife were bound by severall recognizances to appeare att Taunton Sessions last; And whereas it hath been made manifest that Mary Parker, William Longe, Mary Croyden and George Croydon were likewise concerned in the differences aforesaid, and whereas also this Court is informed that the said John Carye and Richard Bovett Justices as aforesaid by reason of their farre distance of abode from the said partyes concerned in the differences aforesaid have not had opportunity to meete concerninge y<sup>e</sup> premisses;—This Court doth therefore by the mutuall consent of all the said parties desire as well the said John Carye and Richard Bovett as also John Turbervill, Henry Bonner, John Barker, and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> to call all the partyes concerned in the premisses before them and to putt an end to the differences aforesaid if they can by friendly mediation and composure.

14. Upon reading the petition of John Shoobrooke thereby showing that he having bin formerly A covenant servant with one John Acastle of the parishe of West Munckton for one quarter of an yeare and afterwards went to the parish of Michaell Creech the place of his birth, where y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants of the same parish refused to entertaine the said petitioner he the said Shoobrooke by meanes thereof is att present destitute of a place of habitation and in that respect desires this Court that he may be permitted to inhabite in one of the said two parishes :—Now for that itt appeareth that the said Shoobrooke was last settled att West Munckton it is ordered that the said Shoobrooke shall be and remaine att West Munckton aforesaid untill the next Generall Sessions and from thence forwards, unles y<sup>e</sup> parish-ioners of West Munckton shall then shew good cause to the contrary. [S.R., 90, 6.]

The order of Henry Bonner and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the releife of the parish of Stoke under Hambdon and for the keeping of a child; dated 28th day of September 1654. [S.R., 89, 13.]

The order of William Smyth and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Chedder and for the keeping of a male child ; dated the 30th day of September 1654.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD  
FOR THE COUNTY AFORESAID ATT WELLS in the same  
County on Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany  
(to witt) the Nineth Day of January in the year of our Lord  
1654(5) Before [not given.]

1. Upon complaint made unto this Court by the parishioners of Chilthorne in this County that one Dorothy Hunt the wife of one John Hunt of Broadwinsor in the county of Dorsett and her child were by an order of Sessions of the said County held att Bridporte the third day of October last conveyed to Chilthorne aforesaid ; and whereas it hath been made appeare unto this Court by oath that the said John Hunt and Dorothy his wife have been settled att Broadwinsor aforesaid, and have since their marriage (which was about two yeares since lived for the most parte in the said parish of Broadwinsor and have not for any part of the same time lived or resided att Chilthorne aforesaid ; Order that the said Dorothy Hunt and her child be forthwith conveyed to Broadwinsor there to be settled and provided for and the parish of Chilthorne to be discharged from them.

2. Whereas John Mitchell and Julian West were bound over to this Sessions by recognizance, they having contracted together to be married, and William Billing father of the said Julian in respect he had not given his consent thereunto did putt in his exceptions to the said contract of Marriage, and the s<sup>d</sup> Billinge having now given his consent This doth discharge the said recognizance and doth leave the said Michell and West to their liberty to bee married if they please.

3. Upon reading the petition of the Inhabitants of the parish of Milverton thereby shewing that they are overcharged with the

abundance of poore which daily increase to the great and almost insupportable burthen of the petitioners (their other taxes considered); John Turbervill and Richard Bovett Esqrs desired to make such order therein by the chargeing of such other parishes towards the releife of the poore of Milverton and bind such persons refusing to performe the same as they shall thinke fitt.

4. The Treasurers of the hospitals at the next Sessions to pay unto Mr. Whetcombe the sum of £10 (in case there shall so much appear to be remaining in their hands) above the moneys already received by him towards the repair of Bartpool bridge and other publike bridges of this county.

5. Richard Browne gent the present keeper of the gaol at Ivelchester to be also keeper of the House of Correction there. And the Sherriffe of this County is hereby desired to take care that some able honest Minister bee provided to preach to the prisoners in the goale and house of correction twixt now and the next Sessions who is to bee allowed such his paines herein out of the said moneyes fees and profitts received by the said keeper of the said goale and house of correction. And that the said keeper of the goale and house of correction doe take care that the same houses bee repayred.

6. Uppon reading of the petition of Rebecca Clarke the wife of one Clarke shewing that shee is possessed of a tenement att Ashcott in the tenure of one Silcox who is bound by articles to pay the rent to the petitioner or to give her sufficient maintenance; but the said Silcox hath refused and doth refuse to doe eyther of the same, soe that for want thereof the petitioner is like to perish; William Smyth and John Gutch Esqrs desired to make such order therein as shalbe agreeable to law and justice.

7. The parishioners of Puckington not having performed the order made at the Bridgwater Sessions last in touching the settlement of one Parker; a warrant of the good behaviour to bind over the now Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of Puckington aforesaid.

8. John Shorland who was born at Ashbrittle where he lived above fifty years and then went to Cleehanger where he remained for the space of two years, to be settled at Kings Brompton in this County where he remained by the space of three months undisturbed.

9. Upon reading of the petition of the Overseers of the poore of the parish of Butleigh thereby shewing that one Alexander Simcox an Ideott being seized for his life of a Coppyhold Tenement in Butleigh aforesaid one Christopher Simcox his brother hath by some sinister dealings procured a lease of the said Coppyhold estate to be graunted to him the said Christopher, he the said Christopher promising the said Alexander Simcox to allow him a competent maintenance out of the same which he now refuseth to performe; and forasmuch as the said Alexander Simcox is now chargeable to the said parish of Butleigh, this Court doth referre the matter of the said petition to John Gutch and William Smyth Esq<sup>rs</sup> to call all parties concerned herein before them and make such order therein as shalbe meete.

10. Upon reading of the petition of one George Tayler guardian unto Phillip Clowte of the parish of Oldcleeve in this County shewing that att the last Courtleete for the Manor and tything of Oldcleeve the Jury consisting of fifteen persons not agreeing in the choyce of a tythingman for the yeare ensuing were putt to the pole therein, and that eleaven of the same Jury gave their voices that one Humfry Hooper should be tythingman itt being his torne by custome time out of mind there used; which said Hooper refused to be sworne and yett the said Jury afterwards made choyce of the said Phillip Clowte an infant of 14 yeares of age who in turne ought not as yet to execute the same, and the said Hooper not appearing here att this Sessions although he had notice thereof, this Court doth order that the said Hooper shall from henceforth execute the said office of Tythingman of the tything aforesaid for all the residue yett to come of the said yeare; and it is also ordered that the said Hooper shall forthwith repaire to some or one Justice of the peace of the County aforesaid to take his oath for the due

Execution of the said office; and that the present tythingman be discharged.

11. Whereas by an order of Bridgewater Sessions last grounded upon the petition of John Baker and Thomas Baker of Fiddington This Court being now informed that the said order was gotten on groundles pretences and itt being now affirmed that the same stocks were taken away by the said John Baker, Thomas Baker, and Henry Mason or some or one of them and in that respect the amerciements aforesaid were by speciall directions of the Steward of the said Leete levyed on them, doth therefore referre the consideration thereof to S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Worth K<sup>t</sup> and Edward Ceely Esq<sup>r</sup>, who are desired to call all parties concerned herein before them, and to make such order therein as shalbee agreeable to Justice.

12. Upon full hearing of the differences between Edward Zouch and Mary Cox widow touching an exception made by the said Zouch against a contract of marriage twixt the said Mary Coxe and one Tegge made and already duely published hee the said Zouch alleading a precontract of marriage made between him and the said Mary Coxe, this Court having heard and considered the proofes produced on both sides for a determination of the said differences doe declare their judgements to bee that the evidence now produced by the said Zouch doth not amount to manifest any precontract of marriage to have bin made between him and the said Mary Coxe and therefore doe leave the said Mary Coxe to her liberty to proceed to be marryed to the said Tegge according to the contract by her made with him as aforesaid if she soe please.

13. Upon reading the petition of Edmond Watts parish Clarke of Congresbury in this County shewing that hee hath been parish clarke of the same parish for y<sup>e</sup> space of xx yeares last past and upwards and that there hath bin 4<sup>d</sup> yearely paid for every Old-Auster land within the same parish which hath bin in arreare unpaid for divers yeares last past by divers of the parishioners of the same parish; and that upon a hearing thereof had before John Buckland and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> the said



Justices ordered that the petitioner should bee paid the said arreares and therefore yssued a warrant for the levying thereof by distresse directed to the Churchwardens of the said parish who have eyther neglected to take distresse or such distresses as they have soe taken have refused to sell on purpose to weary him out with delays and to deprive him of his wages as he by his petition aforesaid doth alleadge; this Court therefore doth referre the matter of y<sup>e</sup> said petition to the examination of John Hippesley John Buckland Richard Jones William Smyth and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> five of the Justices of the peace of this County who, or any fower, three, or two of them are desired to call all partyes before them and to doe therein as to law and justice shall apperteyne.

The Order of George Lutterell and Thomas Syderfin Esq<sup>rs</sup> made the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1654 against Elyas Attwill of Dulverton.

The order of the same Justices made the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1654 against John Templer of Dunster. [S.R., 92, 11.]

The order of John Carye and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of a female child born in the parish of West Pennard; dated the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 1654.

The Order of Henry Bonner and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup> &c. for the relief of the parish of Iminster. Dated the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1654.

An order made by John Buckland and William Smyth Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the keeping of a child born in the parish of Winscombe. Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 1654.

The order of Henry Bonner and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> &c. for the reliefe of the parish of Pitminster, dated the third day of October 1654.

THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT IVELCHESTER in the same County on Tuesday next after the close of Easter (that is to say) the fower and twentieth day of Aprill in the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred and fifty and five Before John Turbervill, John Pyne, John Cary, John Gutch, Richard Jones, Richard Bovett, George Sampson, William Cole, William Smyth, John Barker and Henry Bonner Esq<sup>rs</sup> Justices assigned to keepe the publique peace in the aforesaid County.

1. Upon reading of the petition of Agnes Vagge wife of Richard Vagge of Crickham in the parish of Wedmore in this County shewing That the said Richard Vagge had a child by the petitioner which child the said Richard Vagge was ordered to keepe and mainteyne att his owne charges (the said Richard Vagge and his wife now living asunder), and the said Agnes affirming that the said child since itt was att the finding of the said Richard Vagge hath been much abused, In which respect the said Agnes out of motherly care to the said child hath desired to have the said child home to live and bee mainteyned by her, soe that she have a contribution from the said Vagge towards the charge thereof and for that y<sup>e</sup> said Richard Vagge and his wife having mutually referred themselves to this Court therein ; This Court doth therefore by and with the consent of the said Richard Vagge and his wife order that the said child shall forthwith bee delivered to the said Agnes Vagge to bee provided for and kept, and that from the time of such deliverye forwards the said Richard Vagge shall pay unto the said Agnes y<sup>e</sup> monethly sume of 5s<sup>h</sup> (accompting 12 monethes to the yeare for and during the terme of the naturall life of the said Richard Vagge ; and in case the said Richard Vagge shall refuse to yeeld obedience to this order made by his owne consent as aforesaid, The next Justice of the peace to Wedmore aforesaid is desired to bind over the said Richard Vagge to the next Generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County after such his refusall then and there to answer the same.

2. This Court finding that there is a want of moneyes in the hands of the Treasurers for the Hospitalls of this County doth order that the xxli. *p ann* formerly allowed and paid by the Treasurers for the Hospitalls aforesaid to the Keeper of the house of Correction att Ivelchester bee suspended and not paid untill further order of this Court.

3. Upon hearing of the difference between the two severall parishes of Weston Zoyland and High Ham in this County touching the settlement of one Edward Page and for y<sup>t</sup> itt appeareth that the said Page hath a house for habitation of his owne in Weston aforesaid This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that the said Page shall remain and stand settled at Weston aforesaid where now he is there to bee provided for according to law.

4. Uppon hearing of the difference between the severall parishes of Ditchcatt, Stoke Trister, and Crewkerne, in this County, touching the settlement of one John Bayliffe a poore blind young man, itt appearing to this Court that hee lived for the space of sixe monthes as a servant att Ditchcatt where he fell blind, from whence hee went to Crewkerne of purpose to be cured of his blindnes and from thence to Stoke Trister the place of his birth ; and itt now appearing that the said John Bayliffe was last settled att Ditcheat This Court doth order that the said John Bayliffe shalbee and remaine att Ditchcatt untill the next Generall Sessions, and from thence forwards unles the parishioners of Ditcheat shall att the next Generall Sessions of the peace shew good cause to the contrary.

5. This Court upon hearing the difference between the two severall parishes of Bawdrip and Puriton in this County touching the reparation of the high waies lying within the same parishes doth thinke fitt to referre the same to y<sup>e</sup> two next Justices of the peace to the said parishes who are desired to call all partyes concerned herein before them and to compose the same difference if they can, or otherwise to certify the Court how they find the same att the next Generall Sessions.

6. This Court doth order that Mr. Powell Minister of the parish of Ivelchester in this County bee paid by the Treasurers for the Hospitalls of this County y<sup>e</sup> sune of 4*li*. for his preaching to the prisoners in the goale for one halfe yeare which will end att Midsummer next And the said Treasurers are to be allowed the same upon their accompt.

7. Henry Wellman a pensioner who had xx*sh*. of his pension abated is to have his pension of 4*li* *p ann* continued from henceforth without abatement.

8. The Petition of Marmaduke Coram Keeper of the House of Correction at Taunton showing that the parishioners of Hilbishops had refused to provide for the child of Katherine Tayler, who was at the Wells Sessions last committed to the house of Correction, or redeliver to the said Katherine her clothes as they were ordered to do referred to Colonel Bovett and Mr Serle to determine the same if they can.

9. Upon reading the petition of William Sallway shewing that hee did by consent of the parishioners of Fivehead for many yeares together live in a cottage which stood in the same parish on a parcell of land belonging to the church there where he lived untill about a yeare since att which time the said cottage was burned downe to the ground by fire, and therefore desired to have liberty to build the same cottage againe, hee having the consent of many of the Inhabitants of the same parish to doe the same;—the Churchwardens and overseers of the poor and other inhabitants of the said parishe of Fivehead ordered to permit and suffer the said William Sallway to rebuild the same cottage in the place where the said Cottage formerly stood.

10. Uppon reading the petition of the Overseers of the poore of the parish of Ilbrewers shewing that there lately dyed in their parish one Johane Chicke who left beyond her a son an Ideott, shee having given her goods to the vallew of xx*li*., and that one Richard Chicke another son being the executor tooke the said goods and his said brother into his owne hands promisinge to mainteyne his brother and to keepe him from being chargeable to the said parish, and that the said Richard Chicke hath spent

the money and endeavoureth to put away the said ideott to the charge of the said parish ;—Referred to the two next Justices of the peace to Ilbrewers aforesaid who are desired to make such order as shalbee agreeable to Law.

11. Upon reading the petition of the parishioners of Exton in this County desiring y<sup>t</sup> that the two children of one Thomas Evans a vagrant (who by order of the last Sessions, were settled at Exton) might bee removed from Exton to Dunster where its alleadged by Exton the said children ought to bee settled forasmuch as Dunster have had noe notice of this motion and are not here to make defence, this Court doth referre the whole differences between the said parishes touching the settlement of the said children to John Turbervill, George Searle, and Tho. Siderfin Justices of the peace of this County &c. to settle the said children att that [*siz*] of the same parishes where the same children ought to bee settled by Lawe.

12. George Smyth of Ivelchester, gent chosen Treasurer of “maymed souldiers” of this County for the year now next ensuing in the place and room of Roger Hill gent the late Treasurer; and this Court doth desire Edward Ceely and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> to take the accompt of the said M<sup>r</sup> Hill the late Treasurer.

13. Benjamin Tibbott of Dundry in the said County chosen Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Eastern Division of this County for the year now next ensuing in the place and room of James Hayes gent the late Treasurer And this Court doth desire John Gutch and William Smyth Esq<sup>rs</sup> to take the accompt of the said M<sup>r</sup> Hayes, the late Treasurer.

14. William Bacon of North Petherton gent chosen Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Western Division in the place of Christopher Pittard gent; Edward Ceely and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> to take the Accompt of the said M<sup>r</sup> Pittard the late Treasurer.

15. Upon reading of the Certificate of the Inhabitants of the parish of Powlett in this County That Josias Brookeman of the



same parish is a person fitt to bee licenced to sell beere and to keepe a house of publique entertainment And that his house lyeth neere the common passage called Combridge passage over which much people with cattle and goods are daily transported This Court doth referre the matter of the same certificate to the two next Justices of the peace to Powlett aforesaid to licence the said Brookeman to sell beere if to them the said Justices itt shall seeme meete.

16. Christopher Phelpes a poore maymed souldier who was formerly allowed a pension of 4*l.* per ann. whereof there is x<sup>sh</sup> in arreare to have the said pension of 4*l.* per ann. continued to him and that the 10*s.* in arrear shall be likewise paid him.

17. Mr Pittard the late Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Western Division to pay unto Mr Whetcombe the Treasurer of the moneys raised on inhabitants of this County towards the repaires of Bartpoole bridge and other publique bridges of this County the sum of 10*l.* in case the said Mr Pittard hath so much in his hands.

18. A warrant of the good behaviour for contempt against one Humfry Hooper of Old Cleue for not repairing to a Justice of the peace to take his oath for the due execution of the office of Tythingman of Old Cleue according to an order made at Wells Sessions last.

19. Uppon reading of the petition of Richard James of the parish of Fivehead in this County shewing that his house in Fivehead aforesaid was lately burned downe to the ground whereby hee is reduced to great misery having a wife and two small children and noe house to live in ; And by consent of most of the inhabitants of the same parish hee hath begun to build a cottage in a certen moore called Sedgemoore but hee is obstructed therein by some other of y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of the same parish This Court doth order that the overseers of the poore of the said parish doe provide a house for the said Richard James for the habitation of himselfe and his family ; And in case they shall refuse to doe itt, the next Justice of the peace to Fivehead aforesaid is desired to bind over the overseers aforesaid to appear

att the next Generall Sessions of the peace to bee held for this County then and there to answer for such refusall.

The grand Inquest for this County being desired by the Court to consider of wages for Labourers, Artificers, Handicrafts, and others according to y<sup>e</sup> statute in that case made and provided doe present their opinions for this yeare as followeth (that is to say)

	<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Men servants p ann ... ..	04	00	00
Maid servants p ann ... ..	02	00	00
Mowers p Diem finding themselves ...	00	01	04
Mowers att meat & Drinke ... ..	00	00	10
Men att meat & Drinke making hay p Diem ... ..	00	00	05
Men finding themselves ... ..	00	00	10
Men finding themselves att corne harvest p diem ... ..	00	01	00
Women finding themselves p Diem ...	00	00	10
Men att meat & Drinke p Diem ... ..	00	00	06
Women att meat & Drinke ... ..	00	00	04
Masons Carpenters & Tylers finding them- selves p Diem ... ..	00	01	00
Att meat & Drinke p Diem ... ..	00	00	06
Threshers and Dykers p Diem finding them- selves ... ..	00	00	10
Att meat & drinke ... ..	00	00	05

[The Names of the Grand Jurors.]

Ordered that the Rates for wages above mentioned be in force until further order The Sheriff of this County required to cause the same forthwith to be forthwith proclaimed in all cities and market towns within the County in open Market there.

The Complaint by the parishioners of Compton Martin respecting the settlement of Susan Millard (formerly of Stowey) referred to the two next Justices of the peace.

The order of Henry Bovett and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Preston Plucknett; dated the last day of November 1654.

The order by the same Justices for the relief of the parish of Hinton St. George; dated the 12th day of December 1654.

The order of John Pyne and John Barker Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Othery; dated the 9th day of May 1655.

The order of John Pyne and John Barker Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Pitney; dated the 15th day of May 1655.

The Accompt of Roger Hill, Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer for the Maymed souldiers for the year 1654.

Hundreds—Sumes in arreare.

Payments to the Maymed Soldiers for the year 1654.  
Pensioners.

*Item.*—To Mr. Peter Quarrell for his paines in searching and viewing the maymed soldiers at      *li. s. d.*  
Taunton Sessions    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    00-10-10

The Accompt of Christopher Pittard, gent Treasurer for the hospitalls of the Western Division for the yeare 1654.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD  
FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT THE CASTLE OF TAUNTON  
in the same County on Tuesday next after the Translation  
of Thomas the Martyr (that is to say) the Tenth day of  
July in the yeare of our Lord 1655 Before John Pyne,  
Thomas Gorges, George Searle, Richard Bovett, John Cary,  
William Smyth, George Sampson, John Gutch, and Thomas  
Syderfin, Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

I. Whereas Robt Harrold of Pensford was bound by  
recognizance to appeare att this Sessions touching a certen

pretended precontract of marriage with one Mary Crowe, which said Harrold hath lately made a contract of marriage with one Margaret Gage whereunto the said Mary Crow hath putt in Exceptions, this Court having fully heard all that hath been alleadged by the said Crow touching the premisses doe thinke fitt not only to discharge the said Recognizance, but also finding no matter of precontract of marriage with the said Mary Crow appearing doth leave the said Robt to bee married to the said Margaret Gage if hee soe please.

2. Whereas Thomas Mantle of Crewkerne in this County was bound by recognizance to appeare att this Sessions to answer touching the breach of the peace att the prosecution of Margaret his wife this Court upon hearing of the said Mantle and his wife doth order that the said Recognizance bee discharged, yett doth thinke fitt to referre the examination of the differences between the said Mantle and his wife to Henry Bonner, Esqr., who is desired to end the same differences by a friendly mediation if hee can, and to bind over the said Mantle anew if hee see cause.

3. The churchwardens and overseers of the poor and other inhabitants of the parish of Taunton James to make a general and proportionable rate for the reimbursement and satisfaction of Samuell Powell gent, Thomas Gale, William Burr ridge, Robt Huish and Richard Wadhouse all of them of the parish of Taunton James of the sum of xxiiij*l.* xv*s.* iiij*d.*, which had been levied on them by John Light Greenwax gatherer for ameracements.

4. Upon hearing the difference between one Robert Parsons and Robt Moore his apprentice son of John Moore of Stogumber which apprentice by reason of ymoderate beatinge as is now alleadged and other abuses departed from his said master without his said masters consent the said master now affirminge that the said apprentice did soe depart with the privety [*sic*] and by the seducing of his said father after hee had served two yeares, the said Master denyng all hard usage this Court doth not see sufficient cause att present to discharge the

said apprentice, and doth therefore order that the said apprentice shall forthwith returne to his said master to serve and to bee provided for; and this Court doth referre the further examination of this said difference to the two next Justices. of the peace to Stogumber aforesaid who are desired to call all parties and proofes before them and to putt an end to the difference if they can and to give recompence to the master for the losse of the said apprentice his time to bee paid by his father if they shall thinke fitt or otherwise to certify how they find the same att the next generall Sessions.

5. The Treasurers for the Hospitals of each Division of this County (each of the same Treasurers the one moiety thereof) to pay unto one Thomas Gale the sum of *3*li*. 10*s*. 2*d**. charges in discharging of Amercements laid on the inhabitants of this County for non-repaire of a certen bridge called Tonebridge in the parish of Taunton James being a county bridge.

6. John Turbervill and Thomas Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup>., to make an order as shall be agreeable to law and justice for the relief of the parishioners of Bishops Liddiard who are like to bee burthened with one Jane Doddington.

7. Upon reading the petition of the inhabitants of the parish of West Munckton in this County that according to the late ordinance for the repaire of highwayes they have made an assessment for raysing of moneyes for repaire of the same by a pound rate and the money thereby collected hath been employed towards repairing the same highwayes and yett that the highwayes there (being neere twelve miles in length) are still out of repaire and will cost att least *150*li**. the repairing over and above the pound rate of the same parish, and therefore desired this Court to rate such other parishes who have not bin att the charges of a pound rate to contribute towards the repation of the highwayes of the said parish; This Court doth desire the two next Justices of the peace to West Munckton aforesaid to examine whether the contents of the s<sup>d</sup> petition bee true, and also to examine what parishes have nott bin att the charge of *xij*d**. in the pound for repaire of their highwayes within their



respective parishes, and who ought to bee contributory to the said highwayes of West Munckton, and to certify how they find the same att the next Generall Sessions. [*S.R.*, 92, 2.]

8. James Chudley of Taunton in this County having bin lately presented to repaire a certen foote bridge called Poles bridge within the parish of Hill Bishops in the County; and the said James Chudley having pleaded to yssue to the same presentment and entered into recognizance to appeare att this Sessions to prosecute his traverse therein, and he now moving by his counsell that one Henry Pounsford of Taunton James an aged man is a materiall witness to prove that the same bridge was heretofore always repaired by the Bishop of Winton heretofore lord of the mannor of Taunton Deane which said Pounsford in respect of his extreame weakenes by reason of old age and otherwise is not able without danger of death to appeare here to deliver his evidence touching the same this Court doth therefore order by consent of the inhabitants of Hillbishops aforesaid and of their Sollicitor here in Court that John Carye and Richard Bovett, Esq<sup>rs</sup> two of the Justices of the Peace of this County bee desired to repaire to the said Pounsford to examine him upon oath concerning the premisses and to take in writing the deposition of the said Pounsford touching the same, and that the Inhabitants of Hilbishops or their counsell shall haue liberty to heare the said Pounsford examined and to crosse examine him, which depositions being taken in writing this Court doth order by the like consent shalbee received as evidence att the tryall of the said yssue in traverse.

9. Upon reading the petition of John Coate of the parish of Middlezoy thereby shewing that being one of the Overseers of the poore of the said parish for the last yeare was instructed by ye rest of the parishioners of the said parish to prosecute against one John Parsons who was bound to appeare att the last Sessions and to bee of the good behaviour; in the prosecuting of which business the petitioner disbursed the sume of 37*s* 1/2. or thereabout as hee alleadgeth and some of the said parishioners refuse to contribute towards the said petitioner's satisfaction this Court doth desire ye two next Justices of the peace to Middlezoy

aforesaid to call all parties concerned before them and to make such order therein as shalbee agreeable to Law and Justice.

10. Upon reading the petition of Robert Fackerell of North Petherton in this County thereby shewing that hee is a very poore aged and impotent man and not able to gett his living by his labour hee being very feeble and weake, yet the churchwardens and overseers of the poore of the said parish refuse to afford him any maintenance as a poore person out of the poore stocke of ye said parish This Court doth desire the next Justice of the peace to North Petherton aforesaid to call the churchwardens and overseers of the poore of the said parish before him and to take such order for the petitioners reliefe as hee shall thinke meete.

11. This Court vpon the petition of severall of the inhabitants of the Towne of Wellington in this County that one George Campe is a person meete to have a licence to sell ale or beere in the house where hee now liveth doth thinke fitt to recommend the matter of the said petition unto the two next Justices of the peace to Wellington aforesaid who are to doe therein as they shall thinke fitt.

12. The Treasurer of Hospitals for the Western Division to pay Roger Hill Esq<sup>r</sup> the Treasurer for the maimed soldiers of this County for the year 1654 the sum of *4*li*. 6*sh*. 7*d*.* due to him as itt appeareth upon the foote of the Accompt of Roger Hill Esq<sup>r</sup>.

13. Whereas Mary the wife of George Smyth of Taunton James in this County was bound over by recognizance taken before Richard Bovett Esq<sup>r</sup> for wounding of John Grove, which said John Grove was heretofore bound apprentice to the said George and Mary to bee taught and instructed in the trade of a serge weaver; and itt appearing to this Court upon oath that the said Mary did beate the said John Grove in a most inordinate manner, and uppon hearing M<sup>r</sup> Davis a surgeon upon oath, itt appeareth that the said John Grove by reason of such inordinate beating and of severall wounds thereby received in his head insomuch that his skull was broken is incapable any longer to

worke att the said trade This Court doth order that for the reasons aforesaid the said John Grove the apprentice shalbee absolutely freed and discharged of and from the said George Smyth and Mary his wife, any indenture of apprenticeship or any contract whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

14. Upon hearing a complaint made to this Court by one Mr Humfry Jacob who is and hath been high constable of the hundred of Milverton in this County for the space of 3 yeares and a halfe, and that att the last Court leete the Jury consisting of 18 persons were divided and did not fully agree in the choyce of a Constable ; and that 8 of the same Jury did present one Mr James Chapell to bee Constable for the yeare ensuing, but the rest disagreeing thereunto there was noe Constable sworne ; and itt being now moved by the said Mr Chapell that he is aswell by reason of the grossnes of body as of several distempers of body under which hee labors unable to performe the same office This Court doth therefore order and require that ye steward of the s<sup>d</sup> Court Leete doe att the next Court Leete to be held for the s<sup>d</sup> hundred give itt in especiall manner in charge to the Jury then to be impannelled and sworne that they elect and choose some meet person to serve in the said office of Constable in the places and steeds of the said Mr Jacob and Chapell that soe the said office may bee supplied.

15. Upon reading the petition of the parish of Weston Zoyland in this County desiring a rehearing of the difference between the same parish and the parish of High Ham touching the settlement of one Edward Page who by order of Ivelchester Sessions last was declared to stand settled at Weston Zoyland But the same order being grounded on a suggestion by High Ham that the said Page had a house of habitation of his owne in Weston, whereas itt is now alleadged by Weston that the said Page had not any house of habitation there; Referred to the two next Justices of the peace unconcerned herein, to examine whether the said Page has any house of habitation in Weston aforesaid or not and to certify how they find the same at the next General Sessions. [S.R., 92, 6; certificate by Sir Thos. Wroth and Edw. Ceely.]

16. Upon reading the petition of Roger Beadon and John Rawles Churchwardens of ye parish of Hillfarrance in this County thereby shewing That the inclosure of the churchyard of the said parish hath time out of mind been repaired by particular persons owners of severall tenements within the same parish and that in the time and sithence the late warrs a great part of the said inclosure is fallen into decay by meanes whereof the same lyes open common; the two next Justices of the peace to Hillfarrance to cause the same inclosure to be repaired by such persons who ought to do the same by an amicable mediation if they can, or otherwise to certify to this Court how they find the same at the next General Sessions.

17. Upon reading of an order made att Taunton Sessions which was in the yeare of our Lord 1649 betwixt the severall parishes of North Petherton and Ashpriors touching the settlement of a base child which base child was thereby adjudged to bee settled at Ashpriors and y<sup>t</sup> North Petherton should from thenceforth contribute only xij*d*. p weeke and noe more towards the maintenance of the said child; forsmuch as itt is now alleadged by North Petherton that the said child is not as yett bound forth an apprentice although of age fitt to bee placed forth; the said contribution of xij*d*. p week by North Petherton to Ashpriors shall from henceforth be discontinued and taken off unless Ashpriors having notice hereof shall att the next General Sessions show good cause to the contrary.

18. Att this Court Richard Rounswall a maymed souldier of this County is allowed x<sup>sh</sup> for ye present.

The like order for Anne Martin to bee allowed x<sup>s</sup> for the present.

The like order for John Burges for x<sup>s</sup> att present.

The like order for Maude Cape for x<sup>s</sup> att present.

The like order for Richard Hillard for v<sup>s</sup> att present.

19. Upon reading the petition of the Minister and the rest of the Inhabitants of the parish of Staplegrove in this County

shewing That one William Pomeroy (a most desperate Malignant, a Common drunkard, and a man of a most lewd life) hath upon the request of about 4 of the parishioners of the same parish bin made choyce of to bee parish Register there without the approbation of the rest of the same parish This Court having examined the trueth of the same petition doth order that the said Pomeroy bee from henceforth disabled and removed from any further executing the said office of parish Register within the parish aforesaid; and doe further order that the said Pomeroy doe forthwith deliver over the register booke of the same parish to the present Churchwardens there, who together with the rest of the Inhabitants and householders of the same parish are desired to proceed to a new election of some able and honest person to bee parish Register of the parish aforesaid in the place and steed of the said William Pomeroy and to repair to some justice of the peace of this County to gett the said person to be sworne and approved of for the due execution of the same office.

20. Upon hearing the petition of one Thomas Clarke a poore maymed souldier shewing y<sup>t</sup> hee was formerly allowed a pension of *4li. p ann.* out of the County whereof there is *xxxs/h.* in arreare, And the present Treasurer Mr. Smyth in respect hee findeth not the said Thomas Clarke's name upon the list of the maymed souldiers forbeareth to pay the same This Court doth order that the *s<sup>d</sup> xxxs/h* in arreare bee forthwith paid, and that the said pension of *4li. p ann.* shall from henceforth continue untill this Court shall give order to the contrary.

An order made by Thomas Gorges and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 11th day of July 1655 for the bringing up and keeping of Morris Poole of West Buckland. [*S.R.*, 92, 17.]

The order of John Cary and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of a child born in the parish of Henstridge; Dated the 11th day of May 1655.

The order of John Hipplesley and William Smyth Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 11th day of July 1655 for the relief of the parish of Dowlting for



the keeping of a female child; Dated the 22nd day of June, 1655. [S.R., 92, 15.]

An order made by John Pyne and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the keeping of Thomas Rixe born in the parish of Ilton.

An order made by George Serle and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> the 9th day of July 1655 for the bringing up and keeping of a child born in the parish of Spaxton.

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THE GENERALL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT BRIDGEWATER in the same County on Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael Tharchangell (that is to say) the second day of October in the yeare of our Lord 1655, Before S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Wroth, Knt., John Pyne, John Turbervill, Thomas Gorges, John Gorges, William Cole, William Smith, John Gutch, Thomas Syderfin, Richard Bovett, Richard Jones, and Robert Long Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

1. The weekly payment of 12*d*. ordered to be paid by the parishioners of North Petherton towards the maintenance of a child settled at Ashpriors having been unpaid for the space of xj weeks—Order made for the payment of such arrears—Order likewise made for North Petherton contributing in the binding forth the said child, who is of age fit to be placed forth an apprentice unless North Petherton having notice of this order shall show good cause to the contrary at the next General Sessions.

2. Uppon reading of a certificate lately made by Sir Thomas Wroth K<sup>nt</sup> and Edward Ceely Esq<sup>r</sup>; forasmuch as itt appeareth by the said certificate that the said Page had not any house of habitation of his owne att Weston as was suggested by the parishioners of High Ham at the Ivelchester Sessions last, and that before the said Sessions at Ivelchester the said Page had released by writing under his hand and seale unto Mary Page Wddow his mother all his right and title in tenement in Weston

wherein the said Page formerly lived ; And that the parishioners of High Ham had before the Sessions at Ivelchester taken good security of William Page brother to the said Edward Page and of John Nayler of Chedzoy for saving the said parish of High Ham harmles from any damage that might come unto them by the said Edward Page This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that the said Edward Page bee from henceforth settled att High Ham aforesaid.

3. Uppon hearing the difference twixt the two severall parishes of Childcompton and Enburrow touching the settlement of one Charity Frapwell and her child itt appearing that the said Charity being settled att Childcompton is of late come with her child into the said parish of Enburrow ;—the said Frapwell with her child bee forthwith sent backe to the said parish of Childcompton there to bee provided for according to law unless the parishioners of Childcompton shall shew good cause to the contrary att the next Generall Sessions, etc.

4. This Court being informed that John Light the late Greenwax gatherer of this County hath leavyed severall sumes of money on the inhabitants of the Hundred of Carhampton but doth refuse to discover his warrant to collect the same, doth order that the said Light doe on notice hereof appeare att the next Generall Sessions of the peace to be held for the County then and there to answer the premises.

5. William Hurford of Dunster to be reimbursed xxvs<sup>h</sup>. with 8s<sup>h</sup>. more expended by him which had been levied upon him for non repair of highways, by an equal rate raised on the rest of the inhabitants of the Town of Dunster.

6. This Court having received severall complaints touching the ill government of the house of correction att Taunton, and conceiving it necessary that all abuses in the same house should bee rectified, doth desire Sir Thomas Wroth K<sup>nt</sup>, John Turbervill, Thomas Syderfin, John Gorges, and Thomas Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup>, or any two or more of them to call the Governor of the aforesaid house of correction before them and to heare all complaints that may any way bee made touching the government

of the said house and to survey y<sup>e</sup> same house and the ymplements thereto belonging and also such orders and rules as have bin heretofore made and ordayned for the better regulation of the said house and to see whether the same orders and rules have bin duely observed and putt in execution by the Governor of the said house ; and in case the said Justices shall see itt convenient they are hereby desired and impowered to make such alterations and additions to the said orders and rules for the better regulating of the said house of correction as to them shall seeme meete ; and the said Justices are likewise desired and impowered to yssue out orders for the adding to the sallary now allowed to the said governor of the said house of correction if to them itt shall seeme meet ; and in case the aforesaid complaints shall appeare to bee true against the said governor of the said house or the government of the same then the said Justices to certify the same att the next Generall Sessions.

The like order for Shepton Mallet to William Cole, Richard Jones, Robt. Longe, John Carye, John Gutch, and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup>.

7. Uppon Complaint made to this Court of the great defect of the causeway which lyeth between the Townes of Shaston (Shaftesbury) and Sherborne ; and uppon reading of an order made by John Carye and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> made in pursuance of the late ordinance for the better amending and keeping in repayre of highwayes whereby Frauncis Deveneshe, Henry Laver, William Robberts and George Greene, gent. or any two of them were appoynted to survey that part of the causeway which lyeth within the hundred of Charlton Horethorne in this County, and to certify what the charge in repairing the same way would amount unto, which said William Roberts and George Greene did accordingly certify that they had surveyed the same and that the charge in repairing the same causeway would amount to 65*l*. or neere thereabouts ; this Co<sup>rt</sup> doth desire the 4 next Justices of y<sup>e</sup> peace to the said Hundred of Charlton Horethorne whereof two of them to bee of the Quorum to rate such Inhabitants of the said Hundred towards the repaire of the said Causeway as they shall thinke fitt, and that the money soe

rated may bee leavyed and the causeway forthwith repaired, and further to doe therein as the Statute in that case doth direct; and that the said Justices doe certify of such their doings herein att the next generall Sessions of the peace to be held for this County.

8. Upon reading of a Certificate from Sir Robert Pye late Colonel of a Regiment of horse under the command of the late Parliament that John Burges of [Blank] in this County was a trooper in Captain Piles troope under the command of the said Sir Robert Pye where the said Burges lost one of his eyes This Court doth admit the said Burges into the number of the maymed souldiers of the County and doth allow him a yearly pension of 40s<sup>h</sup>. to bee continued from henceforth untill further order of this Court.

9. Uppon reading of the petition of Richard Browne keeper of the common goale of this County att Ivelchester that hee hath disbursed the sume of 3*l*. 10s<sup>h</sup>. in repairing of the goale aforesaid, and that said goale is now much out of repair; the next Justice of the peace to Ivelchester aforesaid to examine the trueth of the particulars of ye disbursements; and in case the same shall appear to be just, the said next Justice is desired to yssue forth an order to the Treasurer of the hospitalls of the western Division of the County as well for the payment to the said Mr. Browne thereof or of soe much thereof as the said Justice shall find to be iustly due, as also for such other moneyes as shalbee necessary for repairing the said goale.

10. Uppon reading of the petition of one Leonard Mardy of the parish of Swell within this County with a certificate thereunto annexed under the hands and seales of James Forte, John Newton, Jonathan Pitt, and Robert Barber lords of the Mannor of Swell aforesaid and under the hands of severall of the freeholders of the parish aforesaid for and on behalfe of the said Leonard, and shewing their consent and approbation heretofore had for the erecting and building of a certen cottage by him the said Leonard lately erected uppon a certen common called West Sedgemoore within the parish and mannor aforesaid, this Court

doth thinke fitt to consent and doth soe order that the said cottage shalbee from henceforth continued to the said Leonard for the habitation of him the said Leonard, and that the same shalbee afterwards converted to the use of such other poore people of the said parish of Swell as shalbee there placed in according to the Statute in such case made and provided.

11. Uppon reading of the petition of the Inhabitants of the Burrough and parishe of Ivelchester that the poore of the said Burrough and parish are much encreased, whereby they are not well able to relieve them, and that there are divers parcells of lands lying within the perambulations of the said parish, but within the parish or mannor of Socke Dennyus (viz<sup>t</sup>) Chestermeade, Newmeade, and Burlinghams, which parish hath noe Inhabitants, nor payeth to or for y<sup>e</sup> Reliefe of any poore people, And therefore desired that the said lands might bee rated by the inhabitants of the said Towne and parishe towards the reliefe of their poore This Court doth desire the two next Justices of the peace to Ivelchester aforesaid to examine the trueth of y<sup>e</sup> said petition and to take such course therein as shalbee agreeable to law and justice.

12. Uppon reading of an order made att Taunton Sessions 1654, made upon complaint of some undue practizes used by the parishioners of Overstowey in the making of the rates for the collecting of moneyes towards the reparation of the church and relief of the poore within the said parish ; it was then ordered, &c. ; Now uppon reading of the certificate of the said Joseph Wickham and John Eames under their hands whereby itt appeareth that according to the said order they have surveyed and censured y<sup>e</sup> lands, tenements, and hereditaments of severall persons living within the said parish and doe find the same to bee as followeth :

Mr. John Sellecke for his glebeland and	<i>li. s. d.</i>
wood <i>p. ann.</i> upon the racke ... ..	18-00-00
Mr. Humfry Blake for his farme, his hill	
grounds, his wood and griest mill upon	
y <sup>e</sup> racke ... ..	99-00-00



Lewes Sweeting for Fryeron farme, Fryeron	<i>li. s. d.</i>
woods, <i>p. ann.</i> upon the racke... ..	58-00-00
Edward Rich for Byncombe, his overland	
and common thereunto belonging	
<i>p. ann.</i> upon the racke ... ..	39-00-00
Edward Rich for the parke grounde <i>p. ann.</i>	
upon y <sup>e</sup> racke ... ..	24-00-00
Edward Rich for Chaple Mill and one	
moyety of Addiscombe woods <i>p. ann.</i>	
upon y <sup>e</sup> racke ... ..	22-10-00
The widdow Culverwell <i>p. ann.</i> upon the	
racke ... ..	04-10-00
Ratified and confirmed by the Court.	

13. Forasmuch as a highway lying within the parish of Wrington leading from Churchill to the markett towne of Wrington neere a certen place called Whiteheards house was att this present Sessions presented by the Hundred Jury to be foundeours and out of repaire and that the same way is to bee repaired by the inhabitants of the parish of Wrington aforesaid ; And whereas it is now alleadged by the parishoners of Wrington that the same highway hath bin time out of mind repaired by the parishoners of the parish of Burrington and not Wrington, and whereas the parishoners of the parish of Burrington have now appeared by Mr John Standish as their Attorney ; and whereas it appeareth to this Court that the same way is soe foundeours and in decay that unles it bee speedily repayred itt wilbe altogether unpassable this winter ; It is therefore ordered by this Court by and with the consent of the said parishoners of Wrington and the said Mr Standish on behalfe of the parishoners of Burrington, that the inhabitants of Wrington shall att the next Generall Sessions of the peace att Wells enter their traverse to the presentment before mentioned and shall try the yssue thereupon att the said next Sessions and att the tryall shall insist only upon this single poynt (viz<sup>t</sup>) by whom the said way is to bee repayred ; And it is also by the like consent ordered, that the parishoners of Burrington shall forthwith with att their owne charges repaire the same way ; And if at the said next Sessions it shalbee found that the same way ought to have bin repayred by the inhabitants

of Wrington the inhabitants of Wrington shall pay unto the parishoners of Burrington all such sume or sumes of money as Burrington shalbee att in the repayre of the same wayes.

The order of Henry Bonner and George Sampson Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Barrington; dated the 12th day of September 1655.

The order by the same Justices for the relief of the parish of South Petherton; dated the 27th day of September 1655. [S.R., 92, 16.]

The order of Robt. Longe and Richard Jones Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of the parish of Staunton Drew; dated the 24th day of September 1655. [S.R., 92, 14.]

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THE GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PUBLIQUE PEACE HELD FOR THE SAID COUNTY ATT WELLS in the same County on Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany (that is to say) the eighth day of January in the yeare of our Lord 1655(6), Before John Desborow one of his highnesse Counsell, Sir Thomas Wroth Kt., John Turbervill, John Gorges, John Cary, John Harrington, John Gutch, John Barker, John Hippesley, Thomas Gorges, Richard Jones, William Cole, Robert Longe, George Sampson, William Smyth, George Serle Richard Bovett, and Edward Ceely Esq<sup>rs</sup> Justices assigned to keepe the publique peace in the aforesaid County.

1. Upon reading the petition of the Keeper of the house of correction at Shepton Mallett thereby shewing that the said house is in much decay for want of reparation; The Treasurer of Hospitals of the Eastern Division to pay the said Keeper the sum of 5*l.* towards the repaying of the same house.

2. Whereas one Emanuell Dyer a poore boy was lately bound an apprentice to Robert Cannon of Fitzhead in this County gent. by two Justices of the Peace of this County and itt hath now bin

made appeare by oath that the said apprentice was and is so impotent that hee is not fitt in that respect to serve as an apprentice in husbandry and the said Mr Cannon being contented to take another apprentice in the place and romth of the said Emanuell Dyer ; the said apprentice bee forthwith absolutely discharged of and from the service of the said Mr Cannon.

3. Upon hearing of a complaint made unto this Court by Mr Cutbert Hartgill against one Anne Mills a poore child who was lately bound apprentice to him according to the Statute in this behalfe made and provided ; This Court doth therefore order that shee be from henceforth absolutely discharged from her said master.

4. Forasmuch as this Court is informed that att the last Court Leete held for the hundred of Carhampton one Robert Bryant of Luxborow within the same hundred was presented by the Jury then sworne to execute the office of Constable within the said hundred for this ensuing year ; it is ordered that the said Bryant doe forthwith repaire to the next Justice of the Peace to the said hundred there to take his oath for the executing of the said office ; which if hee shall refuse or neglect to doe the said next Justice is hereby desired to convene the said Bryant before him and to bind him to appeare and answer the same att the next generall Sessions of the Peace.

5. Whereas one Mary Martin a poore impotent person was heretofore by order of this Court settled att Yarlington within this County, But sithence the settlement of the said Mary there is fallen unto her such an estate as will mainteyne her, and in that respect hath chosen one John Andrewes thelder of Yarlington aforesaid her kinsman to bee her guardian with whom shee doth now remaine and dwell ; This Court doth therefore think fitt to continue the said Mary Martin with the said Andrewes, but doth order that the said Andrewes shall forthwith give security to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore of the said parish to save harmeles the parishioners of the said parish from the further keeping and maynteyning of the said Mary Martin.

6. Upon Complaint made unto this Court by John Davis of Portbury in this County that hee being collector for the poore

of the said parish for the year 1654 did advance out of his owne purse for the payment of the same poore the sum of *2li. 13sh. 7d.*, overand above the said poores rate which said some of *2li. 13sh. 7d.* the raters of the said parish for this present yeare 1655 told the said John Davis that they had added to the new rate, and that hee should bee paid the same *2li. 13sh. 7d.* out of the moneyes to bee collected uppon the new rate; And that John Younge, Roger Thomas, and Richard Baker, the present collectors of the said new rate doe nevertheles refuse to pay to the said John Davis the same *2li. 13s. 7d.*; This Court doth desire the two next Justices of the Peace to Portbury aforesaid to call the said John Younge, Roger Thomas, and Richard Baker before them, and in case they find the said complaint to bee true, to order them to make present payment of the said *2li. 13s. 7d.* unto the said Davis; and if they should refuse or neglect to pay to bind them with sufficient sureties to appear at the next Generall Sessions.

7. Forasmuch as the parishioners of High Ham have now shewed for cause that the said Edward Page is an Ideott and hath parte of a house and five acres of ground att Weston Zoyland which is allowed as good cause; This Court doth order that the said Edward Page shall from henceforth stand settled att Weston unles the parishioners of Weston shall att the next generall Sessions shew cause to the contrary.

8. Uppon reading of the petition to one Robert Stone of Milverton that he having expended the some of *3li. 2sh. 4d.* in discharge of yssues laid on the inhabitants of the said parish for non repairing of a certen bridge called Pooles bridge within the parish aforesaid, and that the same *3li. 2s. 4d.* was afterwards raysed by a rate and was collected, and yett remayneth in the hands of one William Sheeres who deteyneth the same from the petitioner;

Referred to the two next Justices of the peace to Milverton who are desired to call all partyes before them and to make such order therein for the petitioners satisfaction as shalbee agreeable to justice.

9. Uppon reading of the petition of Alexander Webber of Oake in this County Clerke and other Inhabitants of the same

parish, that the walls of the churchyard of the same parish are and have bin for many yeares last past ruinous and ought to bee repayed by certen particular persons by an antient custome; Referred to John Turbervill and Thomas Gorges Esq<sup>rs</sup> who are desired to call all parties before them and to make such order for the repaying thereof as the law in such case doth direct and appoint.

10. Uppon reading of a certificate under the hand and seale of John Hartgill gent lord of the manner of Kilmington in this County whereby hee hath given liberty to one Richard Cunnocke of Kilmington aforesaid tayler, to erect a Cottage on a certen waste ground called the Marsh in the parish of Kilmington aforesaid, to which certificate y<sup>e</sup> Churchwardens and other of the chiefest of the parishioners of the same parish have given their consent under their hands; This Court doth give liberty to the said Richard Cunnocke to erect and build a dwelling house in the said Waste place aforesaid.

11. The like order for William Gulliford of Kilmington husbandman.

12. Upon reading of the petition of Sarah wife of William Symons of Bawdrip thereby showing that the petitioners husband being imprisoned and having an estate in Bawdrip aforesaid of a considerable value by the yeare, yett the petitioner is chargeable to the parish and is brought into great necessity and want; The next Justice of the peace to Bawdrip aforesaid to call before him the Churchwardens and overseers of the poore of Bawdrip aforesaid, and to rate the said estate of the said William Symonds towards the reliefe of the poore of the said parishe, and to take care for the maintenance and reliefe of the petitioner as the said Justice shall thinke fitt.

13. Upon reading of the petition of John Tucker of the parish of Stogursey, tayler, desiring to be discharged of one Henry Rossiter his apprentice who att the time of his being bound apprentice and for a long continuance before was troubled with a filthy disease as the said Tucker pretendeth; Referred the examination of the matter of the same petition to the two next



Justices of the peace to Stogursey aforesaid who are desired to call all parties before them and in case they find the contents of the same petition to bee true to certify this Court how they find the same att the next generall Sessions of the Peace.

14. John Blunden a maymed souldier of this County is allowed att this presente to receive  $\text{iii}\frac{1}{2}$  which the Treasurer is to pay to him forthwith and shalbee allowed the same on his Accompt.

15. Uppon reading the petition of Robert White of Shepton Mallett shewing that his son being an apprentice to one Timothy Gulliford of Froome hee the said Gulliford doth not allow him competent maintenance as an apprentice ; the two next Justices of the peace to Froome aforesaid to call all parties before them and examine the difference twixt them and certify the trueth thereof to the next Generall Sessions of the peace.

16. Whereas certen articles have bin now preferred unto this Court by Major John Colborne against one Roger Thomas of Wellington Constable of the Hundred of Kingsbury west rendring him uncapable to continue the said Office of Constable, referred for "thexaicon" of the same articles to John Turbervill, John Gorges, and Richard Bovett Esq<sup>rs</sup> who or any two of them (whereof the said John Gorges to bee one) are desired to call all parties before them and to examine witnesses, thereupon and in case they find the same articles to bee true, they are desired to remove the said Roger Thomas from the said office and to swear another meete person in his roome.

17. Whereas one Susan Gulston a poore cripple is lately come into the parish of Portishead in this County; and itt appearing that shee was last settled att Tackle [Takeley] in the County of Essex, this Court uppon complaint of the parishioners of Portishead doth order That the said Susan bee returned from parish to parish by the officers of each parish to Tackle aforesaid there to bee provided for according to lawe.

18. To His Highnesse Oliver Lord Protector of the Common wealth of England Scotland and Ireland etc. :

Forasmuch as it appeareth unto us by A Certificate under the hands of the Constables Churchwardens and severall other credible persons of the cheefest of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Glaston in this County That in the Moneth of July which was in the year of our Lord 1653 about 11 of the clocke in the night a fearefull fire did breake forth in the Towne of Glaston by reason of which fire xiiij dwelling houses besides outhouses with most of the goods there in were consumed and burned, and that the losse of the same in the opinion of skilfull workemen who have surveyed the same losses amounteth in vallew to the sume of 2500*li.* and upwards and therefore they have desired us to give testimony thereof unto your Highnesse that according to your approved piety you may please to ympower the inhabitants of the said towne of Glaston to collect the charitable benevolence of all well disposed persons of the said county of Somersett and other the adjacent countyes towards the rebuilding of the said houses and reparations of the great losses of the said Inhabitants; Wee therefore having taken y<sup>e</sup> premisses into consideration doe humbly certify unto your Highnesse That severall of us can of our own knowledge speake to the trueth of the most parte of the said particulars; All which nevertheles wee humbly submitt to the consideration of your Highnes from the Generall Sessions of the publike peace held for the said Co<sup>y</sup> att Wells the 8th Day of January in the year of our Lord God 1665(6).

19. Uppon consideration of the great charge the keeper of the house of correction att Taunton is att, and that his yearly sallary is not a competent incouragemt for him This Court doth thinke fitt and soe order that hee shalbee allowed 10*li.* p ann as an additional sallary the same to begin att this present Sessions to bee paid by the Treasurer for the hospitalls for the Western Division of this County out of the 30*li.* p ann formerly paid to the late keeper of the house of correction att Ivelchester, and the said Treasurer is to bee allowed the same upon his accompt; The same x*li.* p ann additionall sallary to continue payable till further order.

The Order of John Carye and John Gutch Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of a female child born in the parish of Stoke Trister; dated the 9th day of January 1655. [*S.R.*, 92, 9.]

The order of John Carye and John Barker Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relief of a child born in the parish of High Ham ; dated the 9th day of January 1655. [S.R., 92, 10.]

The order of Richard Jones and William Cole Esq<sup>rs</sup> for the relieve of the parish of Blagdon ; dated the 9th day of January 1655. [S.R., 92, 13.]

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For the remainder of the Commonwealth period only the Sessions Rolls are available. Roll 93, i, ii, contains the judicial business taken on oath before the justice under the heads of Informations, Examinations, and Confessions, and forwarded for use at the Sessions, Ilchester 1656 to Wells 1656-7 ; roll 94 contains original papers, grants, petitions, orders for bastardy, kalenders of the prisoners in the gaol and the houses of correction, and copies of the orders made at the Sessions. Roll 95, i, ii, iii, contains judicial business only for the Sessions Ilchester 1657 to Wells 1657-8. Roll 96, i, ii, contains the same class of papers for 1658-9 ; and Rolls 97 and 98, i, ii, for 1659-1660.

## CALENDAR OF SESSIONS ROLLS, 1656.

### ROLL 93, PART I.

1. Confession of Richard Burges of Wolverton before John Hippisley 2 Jan. 1656-7, that for two years he had stolen food and apples from his master's house upon the suggestion of persons named.

2. Examination before John Hippisley 26 May 1656 of Morgan Willcox; denied that he knew anything of the stolen hay or of the cap found in it; "saith that working for John Salmon in the coal worke at Vobsters Marsh, he did weare a cap of his master's providing as other workmen did, and did leave the cap every night in the coalhouse as the manner is." Four examinations.

3. Information of John Chilton of Timsbury taken 1 Aug. 1656 before Robert Long Esq. A wain load of beer was brought from Bristol to the house of John Templar on 30th July; he understanding it was to be sold at the revell feast warned Templar not to suffer it to be sold. Templar denied all knowledge of the beer until it had arrived, and his wife "swore a desperate oath" that the beer was their own and should be sold. John Hill tythingman deposed that a great concourse of people, 300 or 400 strangers, came on Monday 4th Aug. to see the cudgell match, and divers disorders and abuses were committed, chiefly, as John Robins deposed, by the sale of the said beer. Three depositions.

4. Confession of Mary Vile of Southarpe in South Petherton concerning her bastard child; given to George Sampson 27th Oct. 1656.

5. Examination of James Bragge of Woolmiston in Crewkerne blacksmith before George Sampson 10th Nov. 1656, who said the barley found in his house was gathered by his children in the latter end of harvest, and was not fetched from Richard Brayne's ground at Broadwindsor.

6. Confession of Grace Thorne of Stoke under Hambdon concerning her present condition ; given to George Sampson 15th July 1656.

7. Information of John Lawrence of Barrington husbandman given to George Sampson 10th Dec. 1656 that he had seen John Rowswell of Shepton Beauchamp walking about Shepton fields with a handgun. The said J. Rowswell confessed that the handgun was charged with hailshot. Two informations.

8. The information of John Squibb of Load clerk concerning some immorality in the house of John Meade ; given to George Sampson on oath 15th Nov. 1656. Two examinations.

9. The information of John Gennings of Nettlecombe given to Thos. Siderfin that he had caught Ellinor Slade stealing chips and apples from the wood barton and orchard of George Trevillian in September 1656.

10. The examination of Ellinor Slade taken before Thos. Siderfin, who denieth the theft of apples, but confesseth she did take the chips ; "but some of the poorer sort of the towne did use to take the chips there in the time of Geo. Trevillian Esq. deceased this man's father, and were not denied by him."

11. Confession of Elizabeth Taylor of Ile Brewers concerning her present condition ; made to John Pyne 16th July 1656.

12. Information of John Browne of Ilchester to John Carye 20th Nov. 1656 concerning the theft of a bridle.

13. Information of John Pike, John Keene, and George Vining of Wincanton to John Carye 2nd Dec. 1656 that they having been partners in buying a bargain of trees (birke and ashe) in Whites wood, often found some stolen, and Thomas Woodman of Laterford is suspected. Three informations.



14. Confession of Edith Pollard of Charlton Mackrill concerning her bastard child ; made to John Carye 3rd Dec. 1656.

15. Deposition of John Burnes tythingman of Brewton and John Erbury deputy to the constable of Brewton that they had arrested Robert Humfryes heretofore of Bristol chapman who wandered up and down the country. "He told me he did not care of his life, and he should now be brought to hanginge ; and he will poison himself." Three informations given to John Carye.

16. Confession of Robert Penny of Frome that on 15th Dec. 1656 he was married to Ann Harwood by one Mr. Bistyn minister of Westwood in Wilts, and they have since lived together as man and wife.

17. Confession of Elizabeth Fisher of Frome to John Carye concerning her present condition, 6th Jan. 1656-7.

18. Deposition of Nicholas Edridge constable of Wincanton made before John Carye 10th Oct. 1656 that he had been called upon by his fellow constable Richard Parsons to quiet a disturbance at the house of Francis Dickery innkeeper.

19. Complaint of John Golledge of Frome wiredrawer of the bad conduct of his apprentice who says he will not serve him and would rather go unto the house of correction ; made to John Carye 17th Nov. 1656.

20. Confession of Thomasyn Gregory of West Lydford concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 30th June 1656.

21. Similar confession of Agnes Sherwood of the same place, made 3rd May 1656.

22. Deposition of John Hele the elder of Brewham made before John Carye 1st Nov. 1656 concerning the theft of some linen, which he found in the possession of two young men. He struck one down who however jumped over a ditch and escaped, the other he handed over to the tythingman.

23. Matthew Swallow and Thomas Norman of Batcombe deposed before John Carye 9th December 1656 that six weeks before one widow Golledge of Frome, pretending to be Avice wife of James Hurd of Frome (who had his house burnt), with a certificate signed by Sir John Horner and others, did persuade Mr. Allen the minister to have a gathering or collection in the church which produced 8*s*. 6*d*. The widow Golledge confessed that one James Beslep of Frome made the certificate for which he had six pence. Certificate burnt. Two depositions.

24. Confession of George Scott late of Sutton Montague that he is a runaway apprentice ; made to John Carye 25 Dec. 1656.

25. Complaint of John Sanders and James Brayne constables of Bruton Hundred unto John Carye, John Gutch, and William Smith, that William Morris the elder tythingman of Bruton doth refuse and neglect to perform his duty therein. Bond of Will Morris in 20*l*. to appear at the next General Sessions to answer his neglect.

26. Letter from Ja. Brent to Mr. John Earbery constable at Brewton. He can get no intelligence of the two women enquired for.

27 and 28. Confession of Anna Hook, one of the women referred to in 26, after several false statements, that she is a wandering Irishwoman, and desires to return thither.

29. Depositions of Jahne wife of Robert Chancellor of West Lydford and others concerning an attempted criminal assault by Henry Gregory, made before John Carye 17th Dec. 1656. Three depositions.

30. Complaints of Henry Colman clothdrawer and John Nicholls feltmaker, both of Bruton, to John Carye 26th Nov. 1656 that their apprentices are very unruly, and they cannot tell what to do with them.

31. Complaint of Alce Parsons of Othery widow concerning the theft of three score "billey" sheaves and some pease and

beare helme, for which theft Henry Nash is suspected. Defence of Henry Nash, whose statements are controverted by Thomas Shepherd the tythingman. Three depositions made before John Barker 9th Jan. 1656-7.

32. Complaint of Elizabeth Jeffrey of Othery widow concerning the theft of a green say apron, and explanation by Edith Kerle. Made to John Barker 9th Dec. 1656.

33. Note by Edward Ceely of the examination of Nicholas Hunt of North Curry concerning his baseborn child, 28th Nov. 1656.

34. Information of Charles Crosse of Aisholt that on Saturday night last he heard Humphrey Bond say that Mrs. Escott of Plainsfield did offer him 200*l.* to kill or convey away one Robert Slocombe so he might not be seen any more. Bond adds that it was about three years ago. Made on oath before Edw. Ceely 1st Dec. 1656.

35. Complaint of Robert Derham of North Curry concerning the loss of a sheep; and unsatisfactory explanation by Robert Best of the presence of a loin of mutton in his house. Made on oath before Edw. Ceely 15th Dec. 1656.

36. Examination before Edw. Ceely 11th Nov. 1656 of John Spreate of Taunton Magdalen butcher concerning some sheep purchased of Barnard Gould of North Curry.

37. Examinations of Barnard Gould, and of Richard Webber of Knap in North Curry who complained of the loss of five sheep. Taken before Edw. Ceely, 10th Nov. 1656.

38. Confession of Johane Tarbucke of Bedminster concerning her present condition, made to William Cole 10th Oct. 1656.

39. Complaint to Richard Jones 2nd Jan. 1656-7 of John Priston of Chewstoke that as he was on his way home on 26th Dec. last, somebody discharged a gun from a window in Stokes inn and lodged pellets in his hat. Examination of James Collins who said that he was in the inn with others and had drunk two

or three flagons of beer; and that Henry Grey discharged a birding piece out of the window.

40. Information of William Crase of Winford made before Richard Jones 15th Oct. 1656 that John Travers of Bristol at night drew his rapier and thrust it through a window of his house to the great danger and alarm of his daughter Mary, and further used oaths and threats against him. Further evidence of the outrage by William Fisher and Joseph Griffin petty constable. Three informations.

41. Three informations given to John Gutch; Dec. 1656.

- i. Agnes Harding of Burnham widow complained that sundry persons walked about the back of her house on the night of 21st Oct. so that they were obliged to watch and guard themselves for fear the house should have been broken up.
- ii. Walter Hamlin of Glaston complained that while he was at an inn at Wedmore certain persons named burnt his fiddle and beat him on the head with a flagon pot so that he hath languished ever since.
- iii. Clement Gutch of Glaston accused his servant of stealing divers articles including two small silver spoons.

42. Confession of Elizabeth Bowell of Dinder concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 28th July 1656.

43. Ditto of Abigail Cooke of Wedmore 23rd July 1656.

44. Ditto of Elinor Clarke of Wormister, widow, 29th Aug. 1656.

45. Ditto of Joane Britten of East Wells, 12th Sept. 1656.

46. Information of Mary Cooper of Coxley of a gross outrage committed on her while in service at Wells, 25th Aug. 1656. The actual assault was committed in the church porch of Andrews within the liberty of Wells.

47. Confession of Mary Morse of Cheddar concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 15th Sept. 1656.

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48. Ditto of Hannah Watts, 20th Oct. 1656.
49. Ditto of Margaret Wilcox of Blagdon, 17th Nov. 1656.
50. Information of Thomas Bennett of Huntspill to William Smith 15th Nov. 1656 that on some discourse between him and John Allen concerning scriptures, the said Allen did say that the holy scriptures contained in the old and new testament are but fables or as a ballatt, and that there is no necessity for prayer or any other godly exercise to be used, but let a man live as prophanelly as he would he should be saved if he thought himself to be in Christ ; and that there would be as good scriptures made concerning the late wars as any of those in the said old and new testament.
51. Information of Nicholas Cole of Auston (Alston) Sutton in the parish of Weare, made to William Smith 18th Nov. 1656, that about six weeks since telling Leonard Churchouse that he had overcharged Mr. Henry Leister for some hay, he replied with oaths that the rogue (meaning Mr. Leister) should pay him so much, for townes people make him pay more then things are worth; and that the said Leister had killed a child whiles he was in the army and rosted it.
52. Informations of Robert Brooke sexton, Richard James overseer, and Robert Webb constable, of Shepton Mallet, concerning the very disorderly conduct of Benjamin Mansell of that place, who on the last Lord's day persisted in sitting in the church during the sermon and prayers with his hat on ; and then while Mr. Calderwood the minister was preparing to baptize a child, entered into a violent doctrinal wrangle because the minister had limited the Holy Spirit by speaking by an hour glass, to the great disturbance of the whole congregation.
53. Confession of Christian Shorland of Norton Fitzwarren made to Richard Bovett 30th Sept. 1656 concerning the parentage of her bastard child.
54. Complaint of Henry Warr gent. of Horton in Ilminster and others concerning the drunken and quarrelsome behaviour of John Yetford ; made to Henry Bonner 25th Sept. 1656.



55. Confession of Frances Rogers of Adber in Trent concerning her present condition ; made to John Carye, and afterwards confirmed at the Michaelmas Sessions at Taunton 1656.

56. Ditto of Ann Phillips of Yatton, made to William Cole 24th May 1656.

57. Information of Richard Wall one of the overseers of Wedmore touching the lewd behaviour of Edward Laurence and Elizabeth Tegge whose husband went away six years ago, given to William Smith 16th June 1656. A warrant issued for the apprehension of the woman, but she cannot be found.

58. Confession of Sarah Perry of Chellington, concerning her present condition ; made to George Sampson 5th Sept. 1656. [Also 66.]

59. Information of John Tatchell of West Coker given to George Sampson 20th July 1656 concerning a peck of wheat stolen from his barn. Also of William Folk tythingman of the same place who searched the house of William Sealy to no effect, but he has gone out of the county. The examination of the said Sealy who confessed that he had left the service of Mr. Andrew Henly of Bramshill in Hampshire with ten shillings belonging to another servant ; denied that he stole the corn, and that he left West Coker because there were speeches about the theft and Tatchell used threatening language, and he would not be troubled by them.

60. Information of Henry Forte of Compton Durvill to George Sampson 7th Aug. 1656 touching five sheaves of white and graybald wheat stolen from a windmow in Compton Field ; and of John Skellin who saw two women (named and suspected) leasing out sheaves in a ditch near the field.

61. Information of John Spracklin of Chilthorne Domer, given to George Sampson 9th Aug. 1656, touching the lewd behaviour of two persons in the house of Thomas Baker, where he doth table.

62. Information of John Hucker of Montague concerning some wood stolen out of his close called Chilwell; this was found by John Coxe tythingman of Chiltron Domer in the house of Henry Hunt who ran away after apprehension. Henry Hunt being examined said he found the wood under a hedge near Tintinhull, and he ran away because his wife persuaded him not to go before the justice: all given to George Sampson 20th Aug. 1656.

63. Information of William Saunder of North Perrot butcher concerning pieces of meat stolen out of his potts on his horse's back in Crewkerne markets. Also of Francis Fisher tythingman who found the missing meat in the house of Thomas Mantle, and the very weak explanation offered by the said Mantle: all given to George Sampson 22nd Sept. 1656.

64. Confession of Mary Chapple of Atherston in White-lackington concerning her present condition; made to George Sampson 16th May 1656.

65. Information of three women of Huntspill concerning the suspicious behaviour of John Hilbert of Burnham with the wife of Robert Richmond; given to John Gutch 22nd July 1656.

66. Confession of Elizabeth Perry of Chellington concerning her present condition, made to Henry Bonner 9th Aug. 1656. [Also 58.]

67. Information of three women of Ilminster concerning Richard Burridge *a/s.* Barber, glover who is a man of a very vile conversation, a swearer and curser, a common abuser of his neighbours, and had assaulted the parties complaining. Corroborated by Samuel Tucker and William Elsbird, constables. Given to Henry Bonner 4th Aug. 1656.

68. Confession of Jeane Burridge of Hewishe in Crewkerne concerning her present condition, given to Henry Bonner 28th Oct. 1656.

69. Complaint of Alexander Baylie of Whitestanton concerning his trouble and danger in serving an attachment of the County Court on the goods of Thomas Welland of Corfe; made to Henry Bonner 18th Aug. 1656.

70. Information of John Mayfield of Sherborne chapman concerning two suspected women thieves at Langport fair 24th Sept. 1656, given the same day to J. Barker.

71. Statements by William Jeanes of Bristol, and Alexander his son, and Katherine Merriott of Wargrave co. Berks, all suspected characters, apprehended at Langport 24th Sept. 1656 and examined by John Barker.

72, 73. Three informations given to Thomas Siderfin 22nd July 1656, by Thomas Greenslade, of Upton, William Parr and Robert Bozley of Huishchampflower, concerning the disappearance of two sheep depasturing upon Brundon hill.

74. Three examinations taken by John Pyne 23rd Sept. 1656 of William Cole tythingman of Curland, Agnes Whyte and Hercules Helliard *als.* Lake both of Curland, concerning the two white chickens found healed up in an earthen pot in the last named person's house, and claimed by Agnes Whyte as her own.

75. Five informations given to Richard Bovett concerning a statement made by Christian Sholer of Norton Fitzwarren concerning the paternity of her child. Dated 10th Sept. 1656.

76. Information of William Mullens of Bagborough given to Richard Bovett 27th Sept. 1656. Richard Williams of the same place did say that if he had a band of soldiers he would meet the Prince; and further that he would cut the throat of Thomas Cox of B. and all his followers. Further he said that if the times did turn he would not leave the said Cox and Robert Barrell worth a groat. He confesseth that the said Williams did arrest him on Monday last.

77. Confessions of Jane Small *als.* Cox of Bagborough and Grace Werrall of Taunton, concerning their present condition, made to Richard Bovett 19th Sept. 1656.

78. Similar confession of Salome Demont of Hilbishoppes made to Richard Bovett 23rd Aug. 1656.

79. Complaint of Elizabeth wife of James Holland of North Cadbury concerning the wrongful behaviour of their apprentice with her daughter, made to John Carye 26th Sept. 1656.

80. Confession of Ann Sadler of Wanstrow concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 9th May 1656.

81. Similar confession of Mary Gooddenow of Dunniett (Downhead) in the parish of Doultling, made to John Carye 23rd June 1612.

82. Complaint to John Carye 8th Sept. 1656 by Jeffery Coombe of Nunney concerning the ill-treatment he received in serving warrants from the high sheriff on John Egerdon and Thomas Harris of Whatley.

83. Information to John Carye 1st Sept. 1656 by Matthew Galpin of Stoke Trister that on 8th July John Chicke the elder of S. T. did cause his bull to be beaten and many people to come together with many dogs although desired to forbear that sport being forbidden.

84. Confession of Ann Napper of Brewton concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 22nd July 1656.

85. Similar confession by Mary Lockyer of North Curry to Edward Ceely 12th July 1656. Examination of George Towning who saith that a contract of marriage hath been three several Lord's days published in North Curry church by Mr. Thomas Ballett the register and that he doth intend to marry the said Mary.

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## ROLL 93, PART II.

1. Information of Thomas Wadham of North Curry made to Edward Ceely 5th July 1656 concerning household goods stolen away and found in the house of Margery Fry at Chedzey.

2. Information of Lewis Parris the younger of Milverton, yeoman and proctor of the tithes made to John Turberville

3rd Sept. 1656. He had missed out of a piece of ground called Kitball two stitch and a half of tithe wheat which he found in an outhouse of Henry Ritherdon suspiciously covered over with a burden or two of pease.

3. Information of John Bryant of Huish Champflower made to John Turberville 1st Sept. 1656 concerning a sheep gone out of the common of Heddon and found in the possession of Lawrence Hagley of Raddington, which sheep he identified by certain marks.

4. Articles of the good behaviour against Thomas Hawkins of Wiveliscombe taken by John Turberville 20th Sept. 1656. Several witnesses deposed on oath that Thomas Hawkins said that "all in Goldenhill in the said parish were burnt, whereby differences and debates do arise between men and their wives in Goldenhill, and people do refrain from keeping company with those that are honest men there."

5. Information of Edward Rogers of Fiddington tanner, made to Francis Tuthill mayor or Bridgwater 6th Sept. 1656 concerning the theft of money from his purse in the house of Mary Lacy of Bridgwater; together with the statements of Mary Lacy, William Goosely, and William Cadwell.

6. The testimony of Joseph Ring given to John Gutch 8th Sept. 1655, that Mr. George Derby servant to Mr. Edward Penny of Glasing Bradford did procure a quire of warrants to be printed in the name of Robert Hunt Esq., sheriff of Somerset, and did also procure two seals of office of the said sheriff to be cut for which he paid ten shillings, and did set the name of the said sheriff to some of the warrants, and hath set the said sheriff's stamp upon the said warrants which he did cut himself, and certain of these warrants have been issued out for execution.

7, 8. Fragments of informations.

9. Articles against Richard Paull *als.* Pitcher of Beere in Aller for illtreating the flocks of Richard Dagg of Aller gent., and for giving out scandalous words against the said Richard as



that he was in the late rebellion at Salisbury in or about the year 1654. Given to John Barker 18th June 1656.

10. The examination of Imarke Hodges of Coombe in Aller, widow, concerning a chilver hogg in her flock which was challenged by Henry Bicknell to be his property. Taken before John Barker; [28th June 1656].

11. Further evidence by Henry Bicknell, William Coggan, and Edward Doleman.

12. The complaint of John Barratt of Long Sutton husbandman aged 84 years or thereabouts made to John Barker 30th June 1656. Being in great poverty he had put into the hands of the overseers for collection a bond of 23*l.* due from William Coggan, who however only received 8*l.* in money and took a now bond in their own names for 12*l.* from two sons of the said Coggan; by which dealings he and his children will in all probability become chargeable unto the parish.

13. The testimony of John Jeanes that he had told the overseers of Justice Barker's directions to levy a special rate on Coggan's estate to support Barratt adding that if the poor man should perish the Lord would lay it to their charge.

14. Confession of Jane King servant to Mr. Bourne of Durligh to Sir Thomas Wroth concerning her present condition, 14th April 1656.

15. Information of Anne England of Shepton Beauchamp, widow, given to George Sampson 17th June 1656, concerning an assault by Samuel White of West Lambrooke.

16. Statement by the said Samuel White denying the accusation.

17. Confession of Edward Longe late servant to Robert Clothyer of Montague concerning the theft of wearing apparel, made to John Gorges, 19th May 1656.

18. Confession by Dorothy Milton of Kilve concerning her present condition, made to John Gorges 28th June 1656.

19. Complaint by Thomas Burges of Kingston dyer to John Gorges 4th June 1656 that his covenant servant William Tucker had left him and was offering "endigoe" for sale in Taunton ; and on his return home he found his barrel of "endigoe" much shrunk. The examination of the said Tucker who could only state that he found the 'endigoe' in a bag in the highway about a mile from Kingston.

20. Information of Henry Witherton and William Parsley given to John Gorges Mayor of Taunton 23rd Feb. 1656, concerning a bridle found in the bag of John Coate of Middlezoy whom they had watched suspecting him to be an evil-minded man.

21. Examination of John Evens of Stogumber taken before John Gorges 18th April 1656 ; who first said that he bought the 'bole' now shown unto him of Arthur Webber of Watchet for sixteen shillings in the presence of many witnesses ; but afterwards said that he bought it of one John of Minehead in Webber's house.

22. Information of Peter Gale of Pitminster taken before John Gorges 16th June 1656 ; who said that having received a warrant from a justice (not named) to summon all persons that lived idle without masters and that absented themselves from the public worship of God, he warned Edward Buncombe with his son to answer those offences who reviled the said Gale calling him busy tythingman and little knave. Also Robert Ball testified that the said Buncombe asked him whether the Somners courts were up again.

23. Information of William Odry of Aishcott, Innkeeper, given to John Gutch 28th June 1656 ; that James Luellin of Wells rag gatherer asked of him the way to Low Ham, and when he enquired if he was going to Captain Barker the said Luellin replied that he was going to the Lady Stawell's house with a letter, and he said farther " that there is news now come that the Prince of Scotts is come in about Plymouth with great forces and that he and every one would bee glad to get his own." Similar information by Robert Bawler of Glaston husbandman.

24. Information of Christian wife of John Hooper of South Petherton given to George Sampson 1st July 1656, as also of Mary Hulett, and Elizabeth Weygood; that on the 23rd June John Parker was seen to go with a spade towards the churchyard at night, stating to one of the witnesses that he did get his living by night; afterwards he said that he had broken open the coffin of Mr. Hillard and taken out the string that goes from the brain to the heart for which his cousin Stuckey had promised him twelve pence.

25. Examination of the said John Parker who said that he was in the house of Joseph Drewe on the 23rd June, but spake he knew not what being then in his beer, and further he saith not.

26. Confession of Joane Daniell of Sutton Bingham concerning her present condition; made to George Sampson, 5th May 1656.

27. Similar confession of Sarah Elford of East Coker, 5th July 1656.

28. Similar confession of Anne Brooke of Merriott, 10th January 1655(6).

29. Examination of Margaret Sergeant late of Newington in Surrey taken 7th July 1656 before George Sampson. Arrested with her father (who had escaped) at Barrington for telling of fortunes; "and being demanded where they learned the strange language that they spake, saith of their father."

30. Confession of Francis Vincent of West Monkton concerning her present condition, made to Richard Bovett, 7th April 1656.

31. Articles of the good behaviour exhibited by Robert Cornish of Dunster innkeeper to Thomas Siderfin against John Grove and Humphrey Coningsby of Bristol merchants, who on 27th May 1656 "did drink one health to King Charles and one other health to high Soram, and would have this informant to have drunk it."

32. Deposition of John Glas of Old Cleeve yeoman taken before Thomas Siderfin 17th June 1656. He had lost a plough chain a year sithence, and a week sithence he passing by the house of Rice Davis in Roadwater saw a chain making fast a gate in his court which he challengeth to his goods. Rice Davis husbandman said that while decking a ditch belonging to a ground called lower land belonging to Mr. Nicholas Hurtnell of Treborough he found the chain overgrown with brambles, and Hopkin Flucelly was then present.

33. Articles of the good behaviour against Robert and Roger Clerke of Kings Brompton and John Clerke of Morebath for spreading scandalous reports concerning the behaviour of Nicholas Sellecke and Alice Pleise whereby she was so much grieved in mind that she has become distracted.

34. Examination of Walter Appin before John Carye 6th June 1656, who confesseth that he hath been wandering about England for four months, and at Wells had taken from him his crucifix and beads ; he desireth to return to his own country.

35. Confession of Elizabeth Slade of Yeovilton concerning her present condition, made to John Carye, 4th July 1656.

36. Deposition of Henry Colman of Brewton clothweaver concerning the bad behaviour of his apprentice John Manning, made to John Carye 18th May 1656. Corroborated by Richard Longe constable of Brewton Hundred.

37. Testimony of Rev. Henry Albin minister of West Camel concerning the very ill behaviour of John Bishop of the same place, given to John Carye 30th May 1656.

38. Complaint of Henry Pitman the younger of Woolston in North Cadbury against certain inhabitants (named) of Galhampton for assaulting him on the highway, made to John Carye 28th May 1656.

39. John Smyth of the East Woodlands in the parish of Froome denieth a charge of incest before John Carye, 22nd May 1656.

40. Confession by Mary Best widow of Stone in East Pennard of incontinency for which she hath suffered three months imprisonment, made to John Carye 12th May 1656.

41. Complaint of Alice Guy of Wincaulton that her son Edward was being ruined by the ill behaviour of Mr. Custer inn-keeper of the same place.

42. A pass signed by Walter Day mayor of Bristol for two seamen landed at Bristol from an Ostender (privateer) to travel to Dover. Endorsed : a false pass and the owners sent to the House of Correction, 24th April 1656.

43. Examination of the persons named in the pass by John Carye, 24th April 1656.

44. Examination by Henry Bonner of Robert Collins of Buckland St. Mary concerning some wool found in a kettle and chest in his house, 29th May 1659.

45. Informations of Thomas Trott and Robert Willy, who challenged the wool to have been stolen from their sheep, 29th May 1656.

46. Warrant from Thomas Siderfin for the apprehension of Robert, Roger, and John Clarke and their committal to Ivelchester gaol 19th April 1656. (*See* No. 33, p. 300.)

47. George Cockin late of Braintree in Essex being examined before William Smith and John Carey 27th June 1656, saith that he was in the last engagement for the king of Scots at Worcester, being there wounded was brought to Bristol a prisoner and there discharged ; since then he hath lived in Cornwall partly by work and partly by charity without any settled dwelling place.

48. Complaint made to William Smith 14th April 1656 by divers husbandmen (named) of Winscombe that having had hay taken from their ricks, the same was found in the barn of the widow Hobbs, and they suspect her son James to have taken the same.



49. Articles of complaint held before William Smith 12th May 1656 against William Odry of Aishcott innholder, for his violent and "audacious" behaviour towards several married women, "and against Mr. Edward Lovell minister of Shapwick and Aishcott a godly and well affected able person presented by the Lord Rolle and approved in . . . and inducted by the Commissioners at Whitehall, a master of arts and fellow of . . . in Cambridge of eleven years standing."

50. Confession of Bridget Carde of Rodney Stoke concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 24th April 1656.

51. Information of Timothy Salmon of Wells given to William Smith 3rd May 1656: Tobias Roode tythingman of Meare had refused to make return of the persons not paying their rate, and told this informant that if he received a warrant of contempt or good behaviour he should have law to defend it, or words to that effect.

52. Depositions of many witnesses (named) of Huntspill taken before William Smith 26th April 1656 concerning the violent and outrageous behaviour of John Harris of Huntspill, who had boasted of his exploits in the late war and of having committed adultery "with a woman who was a saint."

53. Information given to Richard Jones 29th April 1656 by Edward Lock petty constable of Pensford concerning the riotous behaviour of certain persons the day after the fair there at the George inn and afterwards in the street, whereby the said constable and his assistants were much ill-treated.

54. Complaint of Blanche Tripp of Long Ashton made to Richard Jones 30th June 1656, who made unreasonable charges against Joseph Crossman; for although his men had by mistake shorn and marked two of her sheep he had offered the wool and five shillings besides to finish the matter.

55. Confession of Susan Saunders of Abbots-Leigh concerning her present condition, made to William Cole 20th January 1655(6).

56. Complaint of the bad behaviour of John Salter of Wraxall, made to William Cole 14 April 1656.

Thomas Gorges minister of Wraxall said that Salter while drunk had come into church and there behaved in a very unseemly manner. And on Easter Monday last in the afternoon when Mr. Gorges and the parishioners were in the churchyard making choice of churchwardens and overseers of the poor, the said Salter and his wife behaved in a very uncivil manner.

57. Confession of Gertrude Richards of Froome regarding her present condition, made to John Ashe 28th Jan., 1655(6).

58. Information given to Thos. Siderfin 14th Dec. 1655 by Lewis Everard of Carhampton concerning the ill-affection of Richard Escott of the same place against the Parliament and the Lord Protector, and that he doth suspect him to be in his heart a malignant.

59. Information of theft of corn and wool brought by Andrew Frost of Dulverton against Walter Thorne, and denied by the said Thorne; in the presence of Thomas Siderfin 24th March 1655.

60. Further charges by Frost against Thorne concerning threats used towards Richard Hocombe; 8th April 1656.

61. Confession of Dorothy Walton of Somerton widow, regarding her present condition, made to John Barker 7th Sept. 1655.

62. Information of John Chappell of Somerton and others regarding the vile accusations brought by George Strode against Katherine Lovett; given to John Barker 20th March 1655.

63. Information of William Counsell of Marksbury clerk given to Alexander Popham and Robert Long 16th Feb. 1655(6), and the very weak defence of George Browne of Compton Dando. Endorsed: The prisoner was set to bail, the trial at the next Sessions.

64. Confession made to John Pyne 16th Nov. 1655 by Elizabeth Salter of Ashill regarding her present condition, the

offence having been committed "on a Sunday when it was Staple Play day."

65. Similar confession by Hannah Baunton of Hatch Beauchamp, 7th Jan. 1655(6); the accusation utterly denied by the reputed father.

66. Depositions of Prudence wife of Edward Templer of Langford Budville taken before Thomas Gorges 26th Feb. 1655(6), concerning an assault upon her by Richard Washer of Wiveliscombe who thrust her out of her house claiming it to be his own. Evidence to the same effect given by Elizabeth wife of John Ritherdon of Langford. Evidence of John Farbor tythingman of Wiveliscombe regarding the difficulty he had in apprehending the said Washer by virtue of a warrant from Mr. Gorges.

67. Evidence of Robert Perrott constable of Wiveliscombe regarding the danger he underwent in serving a warrant on the said Washer on the 6th March last past. Having called three men near at work to assist him in his office, the said Washer seized a corn pike from the said Perrott took him by the throat tore his bans, and with his nails wounded him, using also abusive terms.

68. Information of Jane Cooper of Glaston widow, given to John Gutch 4th April 1656, concerning the loss of her hay at various times; and of her son and of a servant who caught John Penny with a cord of hay and a straw knife in his hand by the rick.

John Penny being examined confessed that he was there "with intent to take some hay, when his conscience smote him and he went away without the hay," and he could not account for the straw knife.

69.—*a*. Information of William Roper tythingman of Burnham given to John Gutch regarding the suspicious behaviour of Robert Bond and Jane Tooth, 12th Feb. 1655(6).

*b*. Information of John Jeffrey of Shapwick concerning thefts of his master's hay by Thomas Woodlow; 15th Feb. 1655(6).

*c*. Information of certain persons of Glastonbury, taken 20th March 1655(6) concerning the rude and quarrelsome behaviour of

George Brooke of Glastonbury blacksmith. After Justice Gutch had bound him over to be of the good behaviour, "the said Brooke made a long and a lewd song in his shop saying I am a prentice John Egipson, and many other jesting verses but the keeping of his song was in a deriding way Oh good justice do not whip me."

70. Confessions of Ellanor Slape of Taunton James and Zenobia Comons of Over Stowey, concerning their present condition, made to Richard Bovett 9th June and 14th January, 1656.

71. Information of Ann wife of John Bryant of Stratton coalminer, made to John Hippisley and William Smith 18th Jan. 1655(6). Her husband John has put her in fear of her life by his threats and cruel behaviour, "he liveth very idly being as she believeth a man distempered in his brain and confounding that small estate which should maintain them and six small children." Evidence to the same effect of Richard Robins coalminer and William Everatt husbandman. Endorsed: Sent to Bridewell.

72. Evidence of seven inhabitants of Chewton (Mendip) concerning the behaviour of Peter Hopkins, given to John Hippisley and William Smith 13th March 1655(6). He is accused of breaking down fences and gates, of driving away other persons sheep, and of knocking them on the head. He is a common nightwalker and a very dangerous man. He did say to Thomas Goold it was a great pity that the house of John Hippisley Esq. had not been afire for seven years before, and the said John in the midst of him.

73. Evidence of Henry White and others of Chewton given to William Smith 27th March 1656, concerning William Hill one of the tythingmen of Chewton, who keepeth unlawful games in his house on the Lords day, and neglecteth the execution of his office.

74. Information of Mary the wife of Richard Heale of Shepton Mallet and others regarding the troublesome behaviour of Thomas Bun; made to William Smith 27th Feb. 1655(6).

75. Evidence taken before William Smith 22nd Feb. 1655(6) concerning the paternity of the child of Elizabeth Horler *als.* Walter of Kilmersdon. The parents were married at Chepstow by a minister, having been previously married by a justice of the peace.

76. Confession of Elizabeth Plumley of Wells, widow, concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 18th Feb. 1655(6).

77. Similar confession of Ann Samways of Shepton Mallet, 28th Jan. 1655(6).

78. Information of Robert Cheeke of Cheddar concerning some hay stolen from the rick of his father-in-law William Gardner and found by him in the stable of Thomas Hill ; given to William Smith 21st Jan. 1655(6).

79. Confession of Edith Manship of Mark who had been delivered of three children at one birth, all of whom are now dead, made to William Smith 22nd Jan. 1655(6). Endorsed : committed to prison for want of sureties. Statement of Thomas Sevier, who acknowledged himself to be the father.

80. Information of William Swetnam one of the church-wardens and overseers of North Wootton given to William Smith 19th Jan. 1655(6). George Body of Worminster by the negligence of Marmaduke Lambert tythingman was suffered to escape whereby the parish of Wootton is like to be much dampnified by his baseborn child.

81. Confession of Loore Sheppard of Wootton that the said George Body is the father of her child, 12th Jan. 1655(6).

82. Information of Richard Boyse of Dinder taken before William Smith 22nd October 1655. He found his mare stabbed in the flank with a bodkin and he believes the deed was done by his brother Henry Boyse. Several witnesses testify that they had seen the bodkin in the house of the said Henry.

83. Information of John Burrowes of Ilminster innkeeper, taken before George Sampson 1st April 1656. He accuseth



Shunatt Aysh singlewoman of stealing out of a tub in his gatehouse wort to the value of one shilling and sixpence; confirmed by two other witnesses.

84. The said Shunatt Aysh said that she came to the house to beg some pottage from Burroughs wife, but she had neither dish nor pail, neither did she carry any wort away.

85. Confession of Mary Oxon of Seavington Mary regarding her present condition, made to George Sampson 4th Dec. 1655.

86. Similar confession by Gertrude Haggett of Yeovil, 13th March 1656.

87. Information of (the Rev.) Hugh Atkins clerk, of North Perrott, given to George Sampson 1st April 1656 concerning the loss of hay neare to the value of a wain load for which he hath in suspicion Francis Helliard of the same place. With evidence of divers witnesses. Unsatisfactory explanation of his suspicious actions by the said Helliard.

88. Information of John Eyds of Crewkerne concerning Joane Hisham who deserted her child in Hinton park where it was found by the constable of Crewkerne nearly dead, given to George Sampson 12th April 1656. The said Joane being examined said that she was a native of St. Sidwell's parish in Exeter, the wife of a soldier in the regiment of Sir Thomas Pride; and returning from London gave eight pence to a boy with horses to have a ride, but the boy having received the money rode away, and she the better to catch him put the child on the ground; and on her return after an hour could not find the child, and hath wandered about distracted to look for it.

89. Evidence of Robert Plympton constable of Shepton Mallet given to John Carye 22nd Jan. 1655(6) as to the bad behaviour of Richard Ellis in the house of Edward Browse, who when desired by the said constable to depart the house replied that "Knave were in office and honest men set by the heels, with many other wild exorbitances committed by the said Ellis."

90. Confession of Anne Granger of Abbis Combe aged fourteen years concerning an assault upon her by Jonathan Sherrin her fellow servant, made to John Carye 31st March 1656.

91. Information of Robert Grum of Brewton tythingman, given to John Carye 21st Jan. 1655(6), that late in the evening of the 5th inst. he heard singing at the sign of the Wiverne (?) which Mr. Cheeke doth keep, and after some delay obtaining admittance he found three men and one woman, and desired one William Plumer to go to his habitation who answered that he would not but would fight with the said tythingman, which he did, and the others refusing to come to his assistance, he was obliged to let Plumer go : and he now desires the good behaviour against the whole party until the next Sessions.

92. Complaint of Robert Russell of Nether Compton in Dorset made to John Carye 4th February 1655(6) that having had some white yarn, and having some suspicion of Thomas Web of Henstridge, according unto relations of him, he searched his house, and there found the missing yarn.

93. Information of Thomas Teather of Wanstrow, given to John Carye 7th April 1656 concerning the theft of some hay of which theft he accuseth Thomas Allwood.

94. Information of Leonard Higgens of Honyweeke in Pitcombe, given to John Carye 1st April 1656. He found two burdens of his hay missing, and seeing some hay scattered in the way, and plainly tracking a man by his foot, it went full home unto one John Clothyer's house at Hadspin, when he saw a cow eating part of the hay. Having some ill words of Clothyer he procured a warrant for his arrest and with a tythingman found him in a dark corner in the rick loft. Clothyer denied the theft.

95. Henry Rogers of South Barrow confessed to John Carye 21st Feb. 1655(6) his behaviour to — Witman of North Cadbury, whom he hath since married by a minister whose name he doth not know.

96. Confession of Johan Tucker of Pawlet concerning her present condition, made to Edward Ceely 7th Dec. 1655.

97. Information of Robert Clarke of Sandford, given to Edward Ceely 3rd March 1655(6) concerning the theft of corn by Thomas Jenkins of Wembdon when he was threshing in his barn.

98. Certificate issued by John Porter deputy clerk that at the Leet or Lawday of the Hundred of Taunton holden [ ] October 1655, Robert Dyer was presented to be tythingman for [ ].

99. Warrant issued by Thomas Siderfin 20th Feb. 1655 (6) for the apprehension of John Pym accused by Dorothy Milton to be the father of her child.

100. Warrant for the arrest of John Govett of Wellington for a similar offence; 24th March 1655(6). Justice's name not given.

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ROLL 94.

1. Grant by Unton Malet "out of my charity and commiseration of his poor estate" to Thomas Pumry of Enmore to erect a cottage "in a plott of ground abutting on the highway without the hedge at the lower end of the warren and joyning to the gate of the hopyard; 22nd March 1655(6). Heraldic seal and signatures of parishioners giving their consent.

2. Testimonial in favour of John Smith of Froome Selwood, an old man of seventy-six, who has been accused of incest with his daughter, and been put to great trouble and expence; the daughter has now named another person to be the father of her child: 13th Jan. 1656. Signed by the parish officers and other inhabitants.

3. Petition from the overseers of Stogumber "on behalf of themselves and well affected" against any increase of licences in Stogumber; to the Justices of the Q.S. at Taunton 9th July 1656.

4. Petition of James Feere of Chew Magna (supported by signatures of inhabitants) to the Justices of the Q.S. at Ivelchester (1656), that having obtained leave of the lord of the manor, he may erect a cottage without four acres of land thereunto laid.

5. Petition of Thomas Rice to the Justices of the Q.S. at Taunton 8th July 1656, showing that while he was a covenant servant to Francis Chesterne of Bishops Lidyard, he was on the 20th June 1650 prest for service in Ireland where he served in the company of Captain William Skinner until they were disbanded 3rd Sept. 1655. Now on his return to the said place he is utterly rejected, and his master denieth the clothes he left behind saying they are lost. Begs for a settlement there or in some other place. Endorsed: Refer to two next justices.

6. Petition "of the inhabitants now living on the north side of the water of Parrett lying betwixt Michells Burrow and a place called Crodens drove within the parishes of Weston, Middlezoy, and Othery" to John Turberville and other justices at Taunton Q.S. 1656: Humbly sheweth that whereas in consideration of their labour and great charges in keeping up the highway adjoining the water aforesaid they have hitherto been exempted from any other highway work, they are now forced by an order to pay to the rate in these parishes: beg that either the rest of the inhabitants share their labours, or that they may be exempted as heretofore. Signatures of petitioners. Endorsed: Sir Thomas Wrothe desired to examine.

7. Certificate by Walter Deyes mayor of Bristol and others that John Grove of Bristol merchant is and always has been well affected to the Parliament; and has borne arms in the time of the late wars, when he was taken prisoner at Cirencester by Prince Rupert and carried prisoner to Oxford. And after his release by a fine, served with the Gloucestershire men at the taking of Bristol by Sir Thomas Fairfax. Dated 7th July 1656.

8. Certificate by her masters in favour of the civil and honest behaviour of Hester Bitman of Brewton; 15th April 1656.

9. Petition by some inhabitants of Wellington for the relief of Maud Cape widow. Her husband was a soldier in Wellington house under Colonel Bovett and was there slain; by her industry

she has maintained herself and family, but now it hath pleased the Lord to visit her and a child with sickness so that she can no longer work. To the right worshipful assembled in Sessions 15th April 1656.

10. Petition of William Chaplyn of Taunton James to the Justices now assembled at Sessions in the Castle of Taunton.

His brother John died leaving a widow and a son Nicholas, who by the death shortly afterwards of his mother from the plague would have had to be maintained by the parish, but the petitioner in love for him took charge of him for his better livelihood and preservation. The petitioner desires the assistance of the Court to recover a legacy of 50*li.* left to his nephew by his mother's sister which he fears may be detained by her husband Edmund Drake of Culliton an attorney in the law.

11. Petition of Thomas Tucker of Tintinhull for relief. He was prest for Ireland five years since, and by reason of the extremity he did undergo is fallen lame and maimed in his limbs to his great punishment loss and hindrance; 4th July 1656. Endorsed: Recommended to the Parish.

12. Certificate by Elias Salter late constable of Plimptree in Devon in favour of the bearer (not named) who hath been in the parliament service under the command of Colonel Fry of this county.

13. Petition to the right worshipful his Majesty's justices of Peace at Wells Sessions of the Constables and Inhabitants of the burrow of Yevell: By ordinance of Parliament 175*li.* is to be raised weekly by the county for eighteen months for the British army in Ireland, of which Yeovil has to pay 12*s*/*h.* 2*d.*, being the sixth part of Stone hundred whereas it ought to be only the eighth part. "Also our said burrow doth wholie consist of trading and tradesmen and their houses, and such as have anie means are rated where their means lie and not with their houses; and that it is so much lately impoverished and decayed as well by the late calamity of fire as also by the long and sad condition of sickness which it lately sustained, that trading is almost decayed, and the major part of the able men which did undergo



the greatest burthen of all impositions and taxes are dead, and their stockes and estates disposed into divers persons hands in remote places, so that we are not now able to raise the said proportion imposed on us." The inhabitants pray for some relief. Endorsed: Refer to Mr. Whitby, Mr. Goffe, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Newton, or any two of them, to examine and certify. This petition was presented to the Sessions at Wells 1646(7), No. 8.

14. Certificate of Francis Baber lord of the manor of Chew Magna in favour of James Feer, 14th April 1656. [See No. 4.]

15. Order by John Carye and John Gutch concerning the child of Edith Lanning of Abbis Combe, 26th Dec. 1656.

16. Order by John Pyne and Richard Bovett concerning the child of Mary Chaple of Whitelackington, 28th Nov. 1656.

17. Order by Henry Bonner and George Sampson concerning the child of Sarah Perry of Chellington, 8th September, 1656.

18. Order by John Carye and William Smith concerning the child of Hannah Smyth of the East Woodlands in the parish of Froome, 23rd May 1656.

19. Order by John Hippiisley and William Smith concerning the child of Elizabeth Plumley of Wells, 31st May 1656.

20. Rough draft (unexecuted) of No. 21.

21. Order by John Turberville and Thomas Siderfin for the maintenance of the child of Dorothy Milton of Kilve who is committed to Bridewell for one year, 10th July 1656.

22. Order by Richard Jones and Robert Long concerning the child of Agnes Hodges of High Littleton, 16th June 1656.

23. Order by John Gorges and Henry Bonner concerning the child of Francis Vincent of West Monkton, 8th July 1656.

24. Order by Edward Ceely and Sir Thomas Wroth concerning the child of Joan Keen of Cannington, 24th June 1656.

25. Order by Edward Ceely and Richard Bovett concerning the child of Elizabeth Palmer of North Petherton, 16th April 1656.

26. Order by Thomas Gorges, Henry Bonner, and George Sampson, concerning the child of Barbara Bevis of Chard, 15th April 1656.

27. Order by John Pyne and Richard Bovett, concerning the child of Elizabeth Salter of Ashill, 3rd April 1656.

28. Order by Edward Ceely and Richard Bovett, concerning the child of Julian Tucker of Pawlet, 16th April 1656.

29. Order by John Turberville and George Serle, concerning the child of Zenobia Commons of Over Stowey, 9th July 1656.

30. Order by John Turberville and John Gorges, concerning the child of Thomasin Peeke of Wellington, 9th July 1656.

31. Copy of No. 26 with endorsement that the order had been duly performed.

32. Order by John Carye and George Sampson, concerning the child of Mary Best of Stone in East Pennard, 1st July 1656.

33. Order by John Hippisley and William Smith, concerning the child of Ann Samways of Shepton Mallet, 27th March, 1656.

34. Certificate by the parish authorities of Kewstock that Johne wife of Henry Least and her children are living in a house provided by their parish at a great charge weekly for their maintenance, 14th May 1656.

35. Order by William Smith that the said Henry Least being in danger of death is to remain at present in South Brent at the expense of Kewstoke, 21st May 1656.

36. Kalendar of John Blinman, governor of the House of Correction at Shepton Mallet, 13th Jan. 1656(7). Five masterless and wandering males, and one female committed for bastardy.

37. Kalendar of Marmaduke Corum, keeper of the House of Correction at Taunton, 13th Jan. 1656(7). One runaway apprentice, and nine women committed for bastardy and evil course of life.

38. Kalendar of William Hilliard Esq., High Sheriff of the County of the prisoners in the gaol at Ilchester 13th Jan. 1656(7). Seven men committed for theft, violent behaviour, and refusing to find sureties.

39. Order of the Court at Ilchester 1656 to settle Roger Payne and his wife at Weston instead of at Martock.

40. Order of the Court at Wells 1656(7) for the next justice to Wedmore to enquire into the complaint of Agnes wife of Richard Vagg of Crickham in Wedmore concerning her husband's behaviour.

41. Order of the same Court for four justices to enquire who ought to repair two bridges, one between Newton St. Loe and Twiverton, and the other between Bristol and Bath, as the inhabitants of the Hundred of Wellow allege that they have continued so long without reparation that it is not known by whom they ought to be repaired.

42. The Court at the same time requested the four next justices to Sparkford (one to be of the quorum) to discover the liability for the repair of a bridge on the London road.

43. Order of the same Court for Robert White of Montague to pay six pence weekly towards the relief of his mother Grace White.

44. After hearing the petition of Richard Waight of Brewton that he had received a prisoner (being one of many poor prisoners taken about 17th April last (1656) at sea by General Blake, and by Major Jenkins sent to Brewton to be placed abroad to service with a weekly allowance of 2s<sup>h</sup>. 4d.), by which he had been put to great charges; the same Court doth desire the two next justices to obtain assistance from the parish towards his relief.

45. Order of the same Court for the apprehension of Thomas Strangways who hath used violent threats towards Giles Strangways Esq.

46. Order of the same Court for the building of a cottage by the overseers and churchwardens of North Brewham for the use of Richard Singer, Thomas Forward Esq. lord of the manor having given his consent.

47. Order of the same Court for 20*li*. to be paid by the Treasurers of the Hospitals towards the repairs of Ilchester gaol; Mr. Barker and Mr. Sampson having estimated the total cost to be 50*li*.

48. The same Court doth desire the next Justice to Shapwick to obtain relief for Honor Banwell whose husband hath deserted her for two years to live with a lewd woman.

49. The same Court decided that the erection of a cottage at Haygrove in Bridgwater by William Thorne shall not give him a right of settlement nor relieve Wembdon of that liability.

50A. The same Court desires the two next Justices to Ivelchester to make an order for the quieting of Giles Younge an apprentice from Charlton Mackrell, whose master John Mayo of Ivelchester tayler has run away.

50B. John Rogers a poor maimed soldier is to be allowed xv*sh*. for the present.

51. At the same Court Alice Moore, whose husband was killed by the late King's forces in the late war at Woodhouse in

Wilts, is to have 20s<sup>h</sup>., "but she is not to come for or expect anie further relief from this Court."

The same for Alice Galloway.

52. At the same Court Richard Mills of Ashcott is licensed to keep a common alehouse "called or known by the name of the sign of the Black Boy."

53. The same Court confirms the certificate given by Mr. Gutch and Mr. Smith that the settlement of Thomas Hext with his wife and family is at Compton Dunden.

54. The same Court decided the settlement of the children of William Sage deceased to be at Long Ashton and not at Chewstoke.

55. The same Court ratifies the agreement made between Long Ashton and Winford, whereby Judith Whidler and her children are to live at Long Ashton, but their place of settlement is to be at Winford.

56. The same Court refers the application by one Mr. Austen of Glaston for a license in a certain house called the Shipp to the three next Justices, "being unsatisfied with the conveniency of the house and the qualification of the person."

57. The Treasurer of the Hospitals for the Western Division to pay 5*li*. toward the repair of the House of Correction at Taunton ; Wells Sessions, 1656(7).

58. The same Court doth desire the two next Justices to Stoke under Hambdon to arrange the difference between the overseers of that place and Gregory Morley and those of Montacute touching an apprentice to be placed with the said Morley.

59. Order of the Court in October 1656, after reference to the Acts 35 Hen. VIII and 13 Elizabeth for the preservation of woods, for Roger Hill serjeant at law, now lord of the manor of Taunton Deane, to enclose a wood called Holcombe lying upon Alcombe Hill and Blackdown Hills, which by the negligence of



the Bishop of Winchester has been laid waste ; this order to be openly published in Taunton on a market day, and at Pitminster and Corfe in the parish churches.

60. Order of the Court at Bridgwater (1656) referring back their order to Henry Bonner and George Sampson concerning Mary Chapple and her child for further consideration.

61. Order of the same Court concerning the settlement of Judith Whidler. [Final order at Wells, No. 55 of this book.]

62. Order of the same Court on the application of Marmaduke Coram keeper of the House of Correction at Taunton that several sums of money laid out on certain prisoners (named) "on account of the weakness of their bodies" shall be refunded by relatives or the parishes concerned, as also of 3*li*. 12*sh*. laid out on necessary repairs to the House.

63. At the same Court the report of Sir Thomas Wroth concerning the petition of certain inhabitants dwelling on the north side of the water of Parrott is confirmed. [No. 6 of this book ; the report is not given.]

64. The same Court desires the two next Justices to Ilminster to examine the complaint of Anthony Hancock of that town that his son apprentice to Robert Smyth deceased had been sent home by the executors without clothes to cover his nakedness.

65. The same Court desires the two next justices to Ilminster to examine the complaint of Thomas Beere of that town who having been turned out of his house is enforced with his wife and five children to lye under hedges, and is denied any relief.

66. Order of the same Court ordering the execution of an order made by Sir Thomas Wroth and Edward Ceely for the levying of four *li*. from the tything of North Petherton, being a fine laid on the said tything by the Exchequer for non-repair of highways, disbursed by Mr. Henry Cheeke deceased and now claimed by his widow Dorothy Cheeke.

67. Order of the same Court confirming the order of Sir Thomas Wroth and Edward Ceely settling Henry Parsons with his family at Thurloxton, unless the parishioners shall at the next General Quarter Sessions show good cause to the contrary.

68. Order of the same Court allowing Dalliman and his wife to remain at Enmore, but their being there shall not be interpreted as a settlement.

69. Order of the same Court desiring the two next justices to Compton Dundon and Mere to convene some inhabitants of either place and decide the settlement of Thomas Hext with his wife and child.

70. The same Court desires John Turberville and Richard Bovett "at their next private Sessions" to consider some person fit to be constable of the Hundred of Kingsbury West; Roger Thomas who has held the office for three years petitioning to be discharged.

71. Copy of the order No. 59 in this book.

72. Order of the same Court giving permission to William Steevens of Michael Creech to build a cottage there, he having obtained licence from Robert Cuffe, Esq., lord of the manor, and of many inhabitants there.

73. Allowances to several maimed soldiers and widows of others slain in the service of the Parliament.

74. Order of the same Court desiring George Searle and Richard Bovett to examine the petition of Robert Vincent, governor of the Hospital of St. Margaret, West Monckton, that the north side of the said house is likely to fall down; and if true to direct the treasurer of the hospitals for the western division to pay for the repairs.

75. Order of the Court at Taunton (1656) calling on the parish authorities of Kingstone to obey the order of three justices allowing twelve pence weekly to George Browneshall, or to answer their contempt at the next Sessions.

76. Order of the same Court confirming the opinion of two justices that Sarah the wife of William Symmonds of Bawdripp, who is imprisoned for debt, is to receive two shillings and six pence weekly from his estate there, to be levied by the overseers.

77. Order of the same Court to three justices to discover the true settlement of Henry Least who now lyeth sick at South Brent, his continuance there not to be interpreted as a settlement.

78. Order of the same Court to Sir Thomas Wroth to examine the petition of certain dwellers by the water of Perrott. [See Nos. 6, 63.]

79. Allowances to several maimed soldiers and widows.

80. Order of the same Court, after hearing evidence on behalf of Martock, Weston, and Middlezoy, that Payne and his wife be settled at Middlezoy.

81. Order of the same Court, after hearing evidence on behalf of Closworth and Chettle in Dorsetshire, that Richard Rock late minister of Chettle is to be settled there.

82. Order of the same Court, desiring John Gorges to examine the petition of Johane Way that her son William may be discharged from his apprenticeship with Thomas Seaward of St. James (Taunton) who has grown too poor to keep him in work.

83. Order of the same Court requesting Richard Jones and Robert Long to examine the petition of William Roger, who was pressed from the tything of Belluton in the Hundred of Keynsham into Ireland, and was there maimed in one hand.

84. Copy of the petition presented to the Court at Taunton by Thomas Pearce of St. James, Taunton. His house was formerly licensed for the sale of beer, and was burnt down in the time of war by soldiers; having been reedified he begs for renewal of licence. The three next justices to the place are desired to license the petitioner if they think fit.

85. The same Court requests George Serle to examine the differences between John Voizey of Taunton James and Edward Turle touching a "pair of loomes," and to end them if he can; or certify his opinion at the next Sessions.

86. The same Court doth order that Robert Vincent, governor of the hospital near Taunton, and Thomas James, governor of the hospital in Langport Westover be paid 50*li*. each now due from the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the western division.

87. John Wayte minister "who lately preached to the prisoners in the common gaol at Ilchester for one half year" to receive four pounds from the Treasurer of the Hospitals for the eastern division.

88. In answer to the petition of the overseers and the well affected people of Stogumber, the same Court doth order that no more licenses to sell ale or beer within the same parish be issued.

89. The same Court doth request John Turberville, John Gorges, and George Searle to examine the difference between Taunton and Taunton James concerning the settling of Elizabeth Davis, whose husband Silvanus Davis worsted comber hath gone away.

90. The same Court desires the two next Justices to Bishops Lydeard to examine the complaint of Thomas Rice. [See No. 5 of this book.]

91. The petition of Thomas Tucker is recommended to the Parish of Tintinhull. [See No. 11.]

92. Order for money to repair the House of Correction at Taunton; copy of No. 57.

93. This Court (Taunton 1656) having taken into consideration the seasonableness of the time of night of fastening and shutting of the gates and doors belonging to the House of correction at Taunton, doth think fit and so order that they shall be shut at nine o'clock from March to September, and at seven from September to March.

94. The two next justices to Thorne Faulcon are desired to examine the petition of Thomas Waterman of that place, who complains that John Quick of Langport hath hurt his son in divers parts of his body.

95. The same Court having considered the complaint of John Barrett of Long Sutton [see ] doth order the overseers to give security (to the satisfaction of the next justice of peace) for the payment of the 12*li*. claimed.

96. At the same Court Elizabeth Saunders of West Bagborough is discharged from her male apprentice, in respect she is no housekeeper; and she is willing to take a maid child to be apprentice.

97. At the Sessions at Ilchester, 1656, Thomas Mead of Wells, gent. is nominated to be Treasurer of the maimed soldiers; and John Cary, John Gutch, and William Smith, are desired to take the account of George Smith the late treasurer.

98. At the same Sessions David Slocombe is nominated treasurer of the hospitals for the western division, in the place of William Bacon; Richard Bovett and John Barker to take his account.

99. Robert Smith the elder of Frome is nominated treasurer for the eastern division, in the place of Benjamin Tibbott, gent.; Richard Jones, William Cole, Richard Bovett, and John Barker to take his account.

100. The same Court doth order Edward Grove tythingman of Henstridge to restore to Robert Russell a parcel of linen yarn stolen by Thomas Webb who hath been convicted of felony for the same.

101. The same Court desires Mr. William Smith to examine the sufficiency of the sureties given by Richard Millard to the overseers of Shepton Mallet for the keeping of the bastard child of Ann Samways; and if not satisfied to bind Millard over to the next Sessions.



102 The same Court, after reading the certificate of the parish officers of Nettlecombe and the licence granted by John Lekey and James Henborow, lords of the manor of Beggern Huish in that parish, grants leave to James Greenslade to erect a cottage on the green in Huish.

A like order for James Feere of Chew Magna.

103. William Easton is not to be removed to Gregorystoke from Walton where he is in no ways chargeable, but his residence there is not to give him a settlement.

The like order, *mutatis mutandis*, for William Masters of Langport to remain at Ilchester without right of settlement.

The pension of Nicholas Ward, who had received great wounds in the service of the Parliament, is raised from *xls* to three pounds.

Margaret Jenkins, the widow of a soldier slain in the service of the Parliament is to have *xxs* for the present.

Maud Cape, a soldier's widow is allowed *xs* for the present.

John Rogers of Street a poor maymed soldier is allowed *xs* for the present.

Anne Martin of Wellington, who lost her eldest son and her estate in Wellington House when it was taken by the enemy, is allowed *xxs* for the present.

104. John Brayne one of the constables of Tintinhull Hundred who hath served one year is discharged, and William Hooper the younger of Montacute yeoman is elected at this Ilchester Sessions, "as one of the constables of this Hundred hath time of mind been elected and chosen at this Sessions."

105. Licence to Thomas Pumry of Enmore to build a cottage on the waste; licence from the landlady. [See No. 1.]

Similar licence to Thomas Heath the younger of Doultling, blacksmith.

106. Order by the Court at Wells 1655(6) to the next Justice of the Peace to Ilchester to examine the bill for repairs of the gaol presented by Richard Browne, gent., keeper, and to examine the repairs still required. [Copy made by me Tho. Yeamans, deputy to the Clerk of the Peace.]

107. At the Ilchester Sessions William Towgood on payment of six pounds to High Ham is discharged from a bastardy order made against him and one Phe Gold of High Ham is to be charged with the said order.

108. At the same Sessions a final order is made for the settlement of Edward Page at Weston Zoyland.

109. At the same Sessions the petition of Marmaduke Corum keeper of the house of correction at Taunton concerning the dilapidated condition of the house, and the diseased condition of several inmates, is referred to Thomas Gorges, John Gorges, and Richard Bovett to examine and report at the next Sessions.

110. At the same Sessions a final order is made removing Roger Payne from Martock to Weston.

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Roll 95 contains Examinations, &c., for the Sessions at Ilchester, Taunton, and Bridgwater, 1657, and Wells, 1657-8.

#### ROLL 95, PART I.

1. Certificate of the churchwardens of Portishead that Thomas Horte hath given sufficient discharge of his baseborn child; 6th Oct. 1657.

2. Certificate (with signatures) of parishioners of Ashcott that Richard Miles of that place hath taken "the house called and known by the name of the sign of the Black Boy, for forty years used as an inn on the London road, and very suitable for that purpose; 13th Jan. 1656-7.

3. Kalendar of the prisoners and their offences now in the gaol at Ilchester; presented by William Hilliard high-sheriff to the Q.S. at Bridgwater, 1657. Thirteen men and women; petty larceny, wandering without passes, no sureties.

4. Order of William Smith and John Cary concerning the child of Hannah Watts of Holcombe; 13th Jan. 1656-7.

5. Kalendar of prisoners in the House of Correction at Taunton, 6th October, 1657. Thirteen men and women.

6. Order by John Turberville and William Smith concerning the child of Mary Vile of South Petherton ; 13th Jan. 1656-7.

7. Order by William Smith and John Cary concerning the child of Mary Morse of Cheddar ; 13th Jan. 1656-7.

8. Certificate of John Hippisley that James Morris and Mary Brodribe both of Camerton were married before him 15th August 1657.

9. The examination of eleven persons (named) taken before John Gorges 26th Nov. 1657. About six weeks since Roger Lowe thelder of Taunton James got them to sign a paper on the ground that it was to stop the law and that the soldiers might soon have their money ; but spake not a word of any matter or thing therein that concerned Captain Gyll or any other matters ; and they do all disclaim any other the contents thereof other than aforesaid, nor any of them do know anything of the matters alledged that Capt. Gyll did do to gain any subscriptions by means of the legacy of the late Generall Blake.

10. Confession of Thomasine Carsons concerning her present condition, made to John Gorges 11th Dec. 1657.

11. The examination of twelve persons (named) concerning the proceedings of Roger Lowe (see No. 9) ; 19th Nov. 1657.

12. Similar examination of — Collard.

13. Deposition of James Hole servant to Henry Soper innkeeper of Taunton concerning the immoral conduct of his fellow servants ; 5th Oct. 1657, made to John Gorges.

14. Deposition of Matthew Eyres of Frome Sellwood. On the evening of 26th December 1657, he and his brother William were assaulted and beaten by certain persons (named) of East and West Woodlands, who were high in drink, having been drinking, playing cards and fiddling all day in disguised habits. Also the depositions of others, all taken before John Ashe 28th Dec. 1657.

15. Information of James Burges of Stanton Drew and Henry Flower of Stockwood in Kainsham given to Alexander Popham and Richard Jones, 27th Nov. 1657. They found Thomas Browning of Keynsham grover carrying a birding piece on the lands of Mrs. Anne Popham and pursuing "sigeens" on the road ; the said Burges being her bailiff demanded the piece, whereupon the said Burges did cock his piece and presented it at him.

16. Confession of Margaret Laurence *als.* Dyer of Overstowey concerning her present condition, made to Richard Bovett, 30th May 1657.

17. Confession by Nicholas Sanford of Norton under Hambdon of the theft of pieces of meat from several butchers' stalls at South Petherton on a market day, made to George Sampson 26th Oct. 1657.

18. Certificate of Mr. John Barker dated at Ham 5th Jan. 1657-8 that in pursuance to an order made at the last Bridgwater Sessions he had examined the Hospital at Curry Rivel (Langport Westover really), and found that the repairs would cost ten pounds, "but do judge that with the supply and free gifts of the neighbourhood and the timber growing on the same, five pounds may supply the defects."

19. Certificate of the parish officers of High Ham that they had received five pounds from John Bond for the apprenticing of his baseborn child now eight years of age ; 9th Jan. 1657-8.

20. Order made 24th Oct. 1657 by Robert Hunt, John Carye, and John Barker settling No. 19.

21. Complaint of Anthony Sully of Staplegrove to John Turberville 1st Jan. 1657-8, that Alexander Bull of Ashbrittle stole from his standing a breest roll of beef value five shillings.

22. Complaint of John Dashwood of Stogumber clothier to John Turberville 15th Dec. 1657 that he had lost a cloth jumper coat which he found on the back of John Wood. He had bought it from William Berryman's wife who carried it away in her wool bags.

23. Information of Thomasin Shorte of Redcliffe in the city of Bristol to William Cole 25th Dec. 1657. She was robbed of her wares by a fellow traveller who was apprehended at Bedminster.

24. Absolute denial of James Derrant of Hooke in Dorset, petty chapman, that he had stolen the wares of Thomas Shorte. Made to William Cole at Naylsey, 25th Dec. 1657.

25. The information of Hercules Phippen of Berrington (Burrington) given on oath to William Cole 3rd Dec. 1657; that Edith wife of William Mitchell of Berrington came into the chapel there on 29th November and disturbed Mr. Alfatt the minister by speaking words of which he only heard "deceiving the people." Whereupon the informant took her out of the chapel.

Joseph Phippen heard the said Edith say "The day of the Lord is at hand," and she wished the minister to repent, with many other words he knoweth not. Mr. Alfatt did give off and did not pray after his preaching, which he usually doth.

26. Complaint of Richard Lott of Portbury butcher, made to William Cole 17th Oct. 1657; that while he with others was drinking at Portbury inn, it being the Law-day court for the hundred of Portbury, William Willmott one of the high constables being overtaken with drink did abuse and beat him, while the other high constable Shoore did not attempt to keep the peace.

27. The informations of John Gardner, William Clement, and Walter Stayle all of Weare, given to William Cole 16th Oct. 1657. They complain that Mr. Edmond Bowyer of Allerton on 30th August being the Lord's Day did impound their cattle out of a common field in Allerton, and refused to release them, unless they would carry a load of corn for him the next day. They add that the said Bowyer makes a practice of leaving some corn standing in the common field so as to have an excuse for impounding cattle.

28. The informations of Edward Carpenter, curate in the parish of Naylsey, Edmond Willmott, and John Godwin, all of Naylsey, given to William Cole 16th Nov. 1657; that William



Willy of Naylsey tailor did come into the church and stood right before the pulpit with his hat on his head, and said to Mr. Carpenter (then preaching), "Thou art a seducer of the people"; and after he was turned out came back again and caused a fresh disturbance, so that Mr. Carpenter could not go on preaching.

William Willy, being examined said that he coming into the place of meeting stood silent near Mr. Carpenter and (his hat being on his head) Mr. Carpenter enquired whether there were no officers to take course with such fellows as these be. And he asked this examinee what he did then, to which he replied whether it were not as free for him as others, and so Mr. Carpenter came and pulled him out of the said meeting-place; and then this examinee, coming in again, declared unto the people, that they should try in the scripture, whether ever the ministers of Christ did pull any out of the synagogue, for this is the fruit of the false prophets, and by their fruit they be knowne, or words to that purpose.

29. Complaint of Benjamin Tibbott of Dundry gent. concerning thefts by his late servant Alice Watkins, made to William Cole 9th Nov. 1657.

30. Explanations of Alice Watkins, not satisfactory.

31. Contradictory evidence concerning the parentage of the child of Dorothy Shone of Stone Easton, made to John Hippisley, 30th Nov. 1657.

32. Presentment of the parish officers of Stanton Drew, 22nd Sept. 1657, that Anna wife of Poker Thomas of Bye mill in Belluton tything is reputed to be a papist, but no other person is a papist or popishly inclined.

33. Information of — Wodhams one of the constables of Yeovil given to Robert Hunt 30th Nov. 1657. On the information of George Grenham of Tiverton innholder he had apprehended William Knoyle of Sandford Orcas gent. on suspicion of felony; but in the presence of Mr. Hunt the said Grenham said he would charge him with nothing nor had he anything to say to him.

34. Evidence of Mary Morgan, John Bealinge, John Mogge, Robert Mogge, and William Glover the tythingman, all of Milton Puddimore concerning some beans, which Nathaniel Carter is suspected of stealing from the barn of Jeane Templer. Taken before Robert Hunt, December 1657.

35. Evidence of Thomas Palmer and William Howell, both of Publow, that as they came from Chelworth church after morning service they saw two men, one with a birding piece in his hand, in a ground of John Hassell; given to Robert Long, 7th Jan. 1657(8).

36. Evidence of John Browninge of Queen Charlton that on the 3rd January 1657-8 he saw John Milkins of Bristilton carry a hand gun under his cloak, and presently he shot it off and ran to take up a bird. The said Milkins being examined declined to say ought thereunto. Before Robert Long, 7th Jan. 1657-8.

37. Examination of Robert Striven of Kilve denying the theft of a purse and money from the pocket of his mistress Rebecca wife of Mr. George Green. Evidence of his mistress and of Richard Standfast, that on being challenged he offered to return the purse and asked for forgiveness. Taken before Edward Sealy 19th October 1657.

38. Evidence taken by Edward Sealy 9th Jan. 1657-8 concerning the loss of some sheep which Thomas Stole of Huntspill suspected to have been stolen by William Came of that place.

39. Confession of Elizabeth Bush of Doultling concerning her present condition, made to John Carye, 27th June 1657.

40. Complaint of Susannah Creese to John Carye 30th October 1657 of the outrageous behaviour of her husband Robert, late of Frome, but now living from place to place.

41. Confession of Mary Sidnam of Presly in Doultling concerning her present condition, made to John Carye, 9th May 1657.

Confession of Symon Sutton who doth intend to marry the said Mary.

42. Similar confession of Alice Holder of West Camel, made to John Carye, 19th August 1657.

43. Similar confession of Mary Baily of Marston Bigott, made 15th Dec. 1656.

44. Deposition of William Penny of Mylton Clevedon that coming early in the morning to the house of John Boole for whom being very sick he was to ride to Mr. Forrester he caught Thomas Yles of Shepton Mallett robbing the henroost of the said Booles ; made before John Carye 11th Dec. 1657.

45. Deposition of Andrew Tibbott of Brewton that on 16th Dec. 1657 his apprentice Henry Hoskins departed in the night with certain goods leaving the doors open. The said Henry confesseth that he took the goods, and is sorry.

46. The confession of Robert Pinfold of Somerton, taken before John Barker 24th Dec. 1657 ; that he took a brass pot out of the house of Alce Bennett widow and pawned it for four shillings, being incited by his brother James Oliver to take something to buy him a shirt. Examination of James Oliver who denied all knowledge of the theft ; and of William Petty and of Joseph Applyn, one of the constables of Somerton.

47. Confession of Henry Pill and Humphrey Lacy of Ivelchester that on the night of 31st October 1657 they killed and divided a sheep belonging to George Smith in a ground called Warnum ; made to John Barker 2nd Nov. 1657. Evidence of Thomas Trent thelder of Ivelchester who found the sheep while searching the house of Ann mother of Henry Pill for stolen loaves.

48. Information of Walter Furse of Middlezoy given to John Barker 15th Oct. 1657 ; that Thomas Fivian of Weston Zoyland and William Moore of Middlezoy having taken John Page in custody upon an execution, took his bond in twelve pounds to pay them forty shillings ; and then bid him to shift for himself.

49. Confession of Abraham Whitehair of Dulverton and Thomasine Farmer of Kings Brompton of incontinency ; made to Thomas Siderfin, 9th Nov. 1657.

50. Deposition of Joseph Marley of Knowstone in Devon concerning a bag of corn stolen from him at Dulverton market by Robert Moon ; made to Thomas Siderfin 19th Oct. 1657.

51. Statement of Charles Bath late of Enbrow (Emborough) that he has had no settled habitation for twelve months, made to William Smith 4th Dec. 1657.

52. Deposition of William Churchouse of Yarley in Wookey, made to William Smith 21st Dec. 1657, that he found some beans, which had been taken out of his barn, in the hall of William Hawkins of the same place. Edith the wife of William Hawkins after first saying that she had leased them, confessed that she had taken them.

53. Confession of Jane Daye of Compton Bishop concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 2nd Dec. 1657.

54. Information of Warde Collins tythingman of Wedmore, made to William Smith 4th Dec. 1657, that having been threatened in his effort to serve a warrant on Mary Newman, he had been obliged to go to her house with a guard, and then was threatened with a "long wayne peeke" by one William Bowle.

55. Confession of Mary Gover of Pilton concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 23rd Nov. 1657.

56. Complaint of William Durson of Allerton given to William Smith 11th Nov. 1657, that he suspects John Bishop tailer to have stolen divers pewter dishes and other goods out of his house. John Pitman, who lodged at Durson's house, going home early in the morning after he had helped the miller of Allerton to peck his stone, saw Bishop run away from the door : "on going in he saw a long crooked great wire in the key hole and a double brown thread fastened to the shuttle of the lock with another crooked wire tied to the string, and under he found a stick with a notch in one end of it ; he further saith that he tried whether he could unlock the door with those instruments which he did do very readily, but wanted skill to lock him againe, but he believeth that the same instruments will both lock and unlock many locks."

John Bishop being examined denied all knowledge of the instruments and of every particular alleged.

57. Confession of Frances Boyse of Dinder concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 9th Nov. 1657.

58. Information of Henry the son of Edward Strode of Hamm clothier, about eleven years old, given to William Smith 29th October 1657. He had been assaulted by the father of two boys whom he had found stealing an iron bar belonging to his father. He returned home to wash the blood from his head "not being willing his mother should see it to be troubled with it who was then in childbed"; and then returned to the field to recover the bar, when he was again assaulted by the man, named Thomas Stone of Downside.

The said Stone denied that he was the man, being that day very sick and not out of his house.

59. Confession of Gertrude Davis of Wanstrow concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 20th June 1657.

60. Similar confession of Joane Wenham of Wells, 29th August, 1657.

61. Similar confession of Agnes Payne of the Liberty of Andrewes in Wells, 2nd June, 1657.

62. Confession of Annis Bush of Stoke Lane concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 7th August 1657.

63. Confession of Ann Adams of Luccombe concerning her present condition, made to Thomas Siderfin, 25th Feb. 1657.

64. Statement of Edward Pavy of North Curry made to Edward Ceely 22nd June 1657. About two years since he was working in the house of Mrs. Abigail Symes at Hancridge in West Monkton when 20 shillings was stolen from a sum of ten pounds in a chamber; and Susan Baker a servant "being willing to have the truth discovered, or having a guilty conscience" gave him four shillings to go to Glastonbury to see one Bambury "who is accounted to be a conjurer" to find out who had the



money. Bambury told him it was a female servant with a wart under her ear and another on her body. On giving this message to the said Baker, she afterwards sent Humphrey Upham who brought back the same message.

65. Confession of Dorothy Bennett of Wellington concerning her present condition, made to Richard Bovett, 18th July 1657.

66. Confession of Katherine Hardinge of Fivehead, concerning her present condition, made to John Pyne, 29th August, 1657.

67. Similar confession of Julian Pole *a/s.* Walter of Curry Mallet concerning her present condition, made to John Pyne, 3rd August, 1657.

68. Complaint of William Slocombe of Wiveliscombe to John Turberville 19th August 1657 that he found some missing sheaves of corn in the house of Richard Deacon, who implicated John Rendoll and William Hutchins.

69. Articles of the good behaviour exhibited to John Turberville and Francis Rolle 3rd August 1657 on behalf of Jane Oswald widow "being in quiet and peaceable possession of the parsonage of Middlezoy, Othery, and Weston, against certain persons (named and unknown) who have disturbed her, with force and arms taken away parcels of tithe corn, and by scandalous and provoking language so frightened the people employed that they cannot go about their ordinary occasions.

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#### ROLL 95, PART II.

1. Statement of William Smith *a/s.* Pullen of Ivelchester, made to Robert Hunt Esq. 21st Sept. 1657. Who saith that he served a warrant on Henry Brettle to appear before Robert Hunt and other justices at the sign of the Red Lion in Ilchester being the said Smith's house to answer to some misdemeanors objected to him and others, which the said Brettle refused to obey; but afterwards accused the said Smith that he did lye in so saying.

2. Examinations of Francis and Jane Benett of Keynton taken 28th August 1657. Who say that the said Henry Brettle and others broke open the house of Robert Gregory of Barton gent. terrified Mrs. Gregory with oaths, and threatened to kill Francis Benett unless he would deliver himself a prisoner.

3. Examination of William Radford of Charlton Horethorne taken 22nd Aug. 1657 that he having been hired by Francis Benett gent. to help gather in the tythes of the parsonage of Keynton, the said Brettle and others forcibly handbolted his hands behind him, saying it was done to prevent his assisting Mr. Benett. Also of Walter Coolinge of Keynton taken at the same time, who was carried prisoner to Ilchester gaol and forced to deliver a bond or otherwise he would have lost his harvest.

4. Examinations, to the same effect, of Mrs. Elizabeth Cary of Bruton midwife, and of Mrs. Frances Willoughby of Kenton, then attending on Mrs. Gregory.

5. Statements (more or less contradictory) of certain wandering women arrested at Ivelchester by the constable just after Langport fair, and taken before Robert Hunt 26th Sept. 1657.

6. Examination of Thomas Hodinott of Sparkford 3rd Sept. 1657, taken before Robert Hunt. Who saith that William Jenkin with many other Welshmen treated at his house with Mr. William Knoyle of Sandford to buy a close of grass to put their cattle in (which a little before had passed by); and not agreeing they drew their swords and assaulted Mr. Knoyle, Hodinott, the tythingman's deputy, his wife, and many others who came to part them, using violent language, stones, cudgells and swords. Similar evidence from Robert Higdon of Sparkford.

7. Evidence given by Margery Maydman and Joane Bewman concerning the suspicious behaviour of Edward Crosse and Margaret Hollway, all of Cucklington; given to Robert Hunt 17th Dec. 1657.

8. Complaint of Gabriell Reve of Charlton Horethorne gent, made to Robert Hunt 3rd Oct. 1657, concerning the loss of some geese. Also evidence of Roger Edwards tythingman and John Parkes; and unsatisfactory evidence of certain persons suspected; the geese could not be found.

9. Statement made by Mary Harrum of Combe St. Nicholas to Henry Bonner 13th July 1657 concerning the suspicious behaviour of James Kymbley and Mary Buridge, both married persons.

10. Confession of Elizabeth Aller of Langham (in Chard) to Henry Bonner 23rd July 1657, concerning her present condition.

11. Information of Thomas Hooper of Cossington given to Francis Rolle 15th August 1657. He lost a red heifer worth near 3*l*. when John Lilly lost some stock, and hath heard that he (*i.e.*, John Chappell, see 12, 13) hath haunted a lewd house and used idle company.

12. John Chappell being examined at the same time, confessed that he had lived at Moorlinch, and before that at Woolavington; and goeth about the country seeking work.

13. The information of John Lilly taken at the same time. He hath lately lost both cow and horse; John Chappell is an idle dissolute fellow wandering from place to place, and from alehouse to alehouse, and is suspected by several other persons.

14. Examination of James Provis of Brislington, given to Robert Long 7th Sept. 1657 concerning the theft of sheaves of corn in July.

15. Information of John Gayner, given to William Cole 31st Aug. 1657, concerning the wounding of James Wathen's mare by Roger Thomas.

16. Information of James Willy of Naylsey, given to William Cole 26th June 1657, that while he was in the house of William Gulley of Chelvey certain persons (named) of Bakewell tried

to assault him ; and beset the house all night, breaking the windows and unlocking the door, so that he was in fear of his life.

17. Confession of Mary Symkins of Keynsham, made to William Cole 27th July 1657, concerning her present condition.

18. Confession of Mary Brodribb of Camerton concerning her present condition, made 10th August 1657.

19. Presentment by the churchwardens and tythingman of Stoneaston that John Beaumont and Constance his wife are reputed to be papists, and no others ; 22nd Sept. 1657.

In 18 and 19 the name of the justice is omitted.

20. Information of John Trutch of Spaxton that he and another found John Cavell taking corn from a mow on the night of 1st Sept. 1657, given to Edward Sealy.

21. Similar evidence given by Henry Lewis.

22. Unsatisfactory explanation of his behaviour by John Cavell.

23. Statement of Thomas Raynolls of Combwich regarding an oak plank found in his house and claimed by William Hurley, made to Edward Sealy 2nd Oct. 1657.

24. Statement by William Hurley, same time and place.

25. Statement by Andrew Miller of North Petherton concerning a horse-dealing transaction at Glastonbury market with William Willis ; made to Edward Seely 12th August 1657.

26. Warrant issued by Robert Hunt to apprehend the said Andrew Miller to answer a charge brought against him by Thomas Evans of Dowlthill.

27. Warrant issued by Sir Thomas Wroth for the apprehension of Henry Hurley of Combwich accused of incontinency with Mary Page widow ; 5th Sept. 1657.

28. Confession of Katherine Sherwine of High Ham concerning her present condition, made to John Barker, 14th May 1657.

29. Similar confession of Susan Perrott of Somerton, 11th May, 1657.

30. Statement of Anne Andrewes otherwise Adams of Oath in Aller, and of four other women, concerning the loss of a blue dowlis apron, made to John Barker 7th Sept. 1657.

31. Fourteen articles objected against twenty-one persons (named) of Weston Zoyland, Middlezoy and Othery for assaulting the collectors of tithe both wheat and pease and taking away the tithe collected; John Barker 14th Aug. 1657.

32. Four articles objected against the tithe collectors named in No. 31 by several of the persons objected against in 31 for riotous behaviour and assault; John Barker 8th Aug. 1657.

33. Another series of eleven articles objected a fresh set of persons (ten names) for interfering with the quiet possession by Jane Oswald widow of the parsonage of Middlezoy, Othery, and Weston; John Barker, 10th Sept. 1657.

34. Information of Richard Porter of Compton Pauncefoot servant to Robert Hunt Esq., J.P. given to John Carye 20th July 1657. While riding with his master near Queen Camel, Richard Burye of Marnhull tried to unhorse him and used uncivil language saying they wished to rob him, and "I have money about me." Burye's brother then came up and was very sorry for what was done by his said brother (who had evidently been drinking).

35. Complaint of John Swallow the younger of Castle Cary, mason, to John Carye 19th Aug. 1657 that his game cock kept for him by Michael Chamberlyn innkeeper was about a fortnight since stolen; and that on Friday last Edward Murrow thelder of Almesford told Swallow that John Francis brought him a fighting cock, which had already killed a cock and lost one eye besides



other damage ; and on seeing the said bird, Swallow recognized it to be his own. Depositions to the same effect by Michael Chamberlyn and Edward Murrow.

36. Evidence given by John Falkner of Stanton Drue, baker, to Richard Jones 20th Aug. 1657, that George Lewis of the same parish, baker, is a man of very lewd and loose behaviour.

37. Confession of George Lewis at the same time, that some heavy charges made against him were true.

38. The evidence of Thomas Parker, son of Robert Parker, late of Bristol, but who hath been at the Barbadoes ever since the late King was beheaded, given to Robert Long and Richard Jones 9th Sept. 1657. He now says that he only accused his mother of murder because while she was drunk she had beaten him.

39. The examinations (taken 23rd May 1657 before Richard Jones) of George Barens, born as he saith at Burnham in Norfolk, of Elizabeth Barens his wife, of Anne Robinson, and of Dorcas Browne, who were with their children and others all taken up at Chewstoke for making a disturbance. To the examinations, which give a vivid idea of the wandering life led by these vagrants, Mr. Jones appended a list of the contradictions in their evidence, and the paper is endorsed : At Taunton Sessions the three women were whipt and sent to their places of birth or last settlement ; and the man remanded to the Assizes to be indicted as an incorrigible rogue.

40. Confession of Mary Howse of Chewstoke concerning her present condition, made to Richard Jones 22nd Sept. 1657.

41. Articles preferred against Mary Coomb of Crosse in the parish of Compton Bishop for her outrageous behaviour to all and sundry, 13th July 1657.

42. Examination of Christopher Hull taken on oath before Henry Bonner and George Sampson at a privy sessions held at Crewkerne 18th April 1657. He had been resident for many years

at Marshwood, but had lately lived at Clapton. On returning to Marshwood the parish got an order from the Justices of Dorset to return him to Clapton.

43. Sworn statement of Joseph Rosewell of Englishcombe and Thomas Willis of Combhay, constables of Wellew Hundred that the constables of the Liberty of Hinton and Norton threw back a warrant granted by Robert Longe and John Harington for the levy of a sum of money stolen from Gertrude Dennes widow in the said Hundred, saying that they would not meddle or make with it; 9th June 1657.

44. Sworn statement of Joseph Rosewell 18th June 1657 that Charles Hooker one of the constables of Hinton Liberty was sick, but William Tovyne declined to say whether he would appear at Keynsham on 18th June to answer his contempt of the warrant referred to in 43.

45. Humble submission of John Allen of Huntspill for having said of William Fane rector of that place "he doth preach lyes"; made at the Taunton Sessions 15th July 1657.

46. Sworn statement of Richard Parsons constable and John Keene churchwarden of Wincanton, that under the powers conferred on them by a warrant, they entered the Black Lion inn at Wincanton about nine or ten o'clock at night and asked Richard Benjafield *als.* Coles what he made there tippling at that time of night who answered that they had nothing to do to question him, and that they should go about their business with their fellow drunkards, there only being with them the other officers of the said towne; made to Robert Hunt 7th July 1657.

47. Information of Thomas Templer of North Petherton that Francis Rogert while threshing at Petherton Park went to dinner with his pockets full of wheat, given to Edward Ceely 25th June 1657.

48. Confession of Purnell Whippell of North Curry concerning her present condition, made to Edward Ceely, 17th Nov. 1656.

49. Confession of Eleanor Slape of Taunton James, made to Thomas Gardner constable of that place 29th April 1657 that the real father of her child was Thomas Peirce, and that she had much wronged the other man. With evidence of sundry women and others, given to Edward Ceely, 30th April 1657.

50. Confession of Edith Savadge concerning her present condition, made to Robert Hunt and John Carye 29th May 1657.

51. Similar confession of Alice Daniell of Ivelchester, 9th June 1657.

52. Examination of Christopher Bacon of Veni-Sutton in the parish of Moorlinch (Sutton Mallet) before Robert Hunt 4th May 1657. He was stopped by the watch in Ilchester for travelling on horseback on the Lords Day contrary to the statute; and to this he confessed being on his way to a meeting at Puddimoore. On being asked to submit to the law "he replied that he would only submit to the law of the Lord," and gave very evasive answers to further questions. Being asked if he did not honour the magistrate his reply was that no honour was due but to God only; on being told "the commandment required honour to father and mother, he said it was meant of God."

53. Confession of Susanna Langley of Henstridge concerning her present condition, made to Robert Hunt, 17th April 1657.

54. The examination of Thomas Salthouse, taken at Compton Pauncefoot 24th April 1657 before Robert Hunt and John Carye. He was brought before them by Captain Raymond as a wandering idle and dangerous person. He confessed that he was born at Draglibeed in Lancashire (Dragley Beck, D.N.B., vol. I, 219), and for the last year had been wandering up and down the western counties "being sent by the Eternal God," and had both food and raiment though without visible means of subsistence. He would only obey wholesome laws; and confessed that he was at the meeting in Budd's orchard. "He refused to be uncovered before us though thereunto requested."

55. The confession of Thomas Budd of Aysh, near Martock, taken at the same time and place as No. 54. He was formerly

minister of Montacute, and wrote to several persons to meet at his house on Tuesday after Easter week, as also to have a meeting Thursday 23rd April; on the first date there met 700 or 800, and at the second time about 200. He knew Salthouse but not of his means of support. Being "acquainted that there was lately a bloody and desperate design discovered, intended to the ruin of his Highness and the Government, and at this conjuncture of time great concourse and meetings of people might prove dangerous," and therefore he should desist from such conventions, he replied that they would have them more frequently. He also stated that he would only honour the magistrate if he be a good man.

56. The examination of John Pittard of Coate in Martock, taken at the same time and place. He was present at the first meeting in Budd's orchard when there were present about 400 persons or more, many of them having staves, peikes, and great cudgells; and there arose so great a contest between them that if he and others of Captain Raymond's troop had not been there to keep the peace, there had been blood spilt. On the second occasion there were present many able and lusty fellows armed with cudgells and staves. After Budd had refused to come out to speak with Captain Raymond, word was brought that there was a certain person out of the assembly who rode away so fast that three soldiers could not apprehend him.

57. Similar evidence given by Richard Palmer of Martock gent., same time and place.

58. Similar evidence of George Stone. At the first meeting he observed one amongst the rest very busy who refused his name to Mr. Eye a minister; but he was the same man who rode away from the second meeting after Budd had whispered something in his ear.

59. Information of John Milchard *als.* Feaver and John Jones *als.* Keymer of Queen Camel regarding the suspicious behaviour of a man and a woman in a bean field on Sunday night; given to Robert Hunt 8th July 1657.

60. Confession of Joane Pinney of Chiltron Dumner concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 2nd July 1657.

61. Information of Thomas Gould of Martock concerning the loss of some rafters which were discovered in the garden of Robert Clarke; who said he found them in Marye Mill Lane; given to George Sampson 22nd June 1657.

62. Confession of Mary Towills of Ilton concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 14th April 1657.

63. Similar confession of Elinor Clarke of Yeovil, 3rd March 1656(7).

64. Similar confession of Jane Hodges of Kingsbury, 18th April 1657.

65. Similar confession of Julian Harrison of East Coker, 26th May 1657.

66. Information of Joane Pottenger of Kingsbury, given to George Sampson 16th April 1657. Last night William Templeman the younger of Merriott came with a horse and pillion and carried away Jane Hodges (No. 64), who was lately delivered of a bastard child, from her father's house.

67. Information of Margaret Gilbert and "Bettrice" Bodye of Yeovil regarding the suspicious behaviour of Edward Spender and Eleanor Clarke (see No. 63), given to George Sampson 9th May 1657.

68. Information of William Clothier and Philipp Johnson of Stoke under Ham regarding the drunken behaviour and vulgar language of Henry Hutchins of Norton; given to George Sampson 29th May 1657.

69. Evidence (very contradictory) of Mary wife of Thomas Barnard, James Morse, both of Gregory Stoke, of Jane Morgan and Johan Brown of Lyng, regarding an assault by Morse on Mary Barnard; given to John Barker 28th May 1657.



70. Information of Johan wife of John Haywood of Barton David, given to John Barker 7th July 1657. On Monday 16th Nov. 1656 she saw John Witcombe sit in the stocks by the heels at Barton for swearing, and his mother weeping by his side; and Mr. Horsey then minister came with a book and said "trouble not yourself, as this is the best day's work that ever he did; for by the statute no justice can punish him after twenty days, and the statute will allow him five pounds for every hour in the stocks." Mr. Horsey also brought him some beer, and the Sunday following said in his sermon "that Paul was whipt and stockt and did not grieve at it neither should we." Evidence to the same effect from John Duffell, James Rawlings, and Walter Chapman. John Parker the tythingman said that the punishment was inflicted within the time allowed by virtue of a warrant from John Gutch. (The act set in force is 21 James I., c. 20.)

71. Articles exhibited against Robert Dyer of Selworthy for disturbing Mr. Wood the minister and the congregation by throwing stones on the roof and against the doors of the church there; Thomas Siderfin 23rd June 1657.

72. Articles exhibited against Lewis Sweeting of Dunster innkeeper, who being warned either to come to watch or send a sufficient deputy, only sent a boy of fourteen years of age; and being questioned reviled the constable; given to Thomas Siderfin 12th May 1657.

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#### ROLL 95, PART III.

1. Depositions of several persons including Robert Persons Vicar of St. Decuman's concerning the bad behaviour and language of Nicholas Luckis. He absented himself from divine service, and frequented an alehouse; abused Humphrey Wall late minister of Williton, and seldom walked without a gun, or corn pike, or some other offensive weapon. Given to Thomas Siderfin, 16th April 1657.

2. The said Nicholas Luckis is also accused of having cast down the font in Williton Chapel. He met William Windham Esq. a member of the Parliament in the highway and said to him: "you rogue take heed how you come on my ground hunting, if thou doest, come to thy own adventure for I will kill thy doggs" and added some vulgar abuse. Given at the same time.

3. A charge of shop-lifting preferred by Thomas Hearne of Dulverton merchant against Edith Middleton. Made to Thomas Siderfin, 13th April 1657.

4. Another charge of shop-lifting preferred by Richard Ford of Dulverton, cobbler; 18th June, 1657.

5. Several depositions concerning a sheep lost by Richard Clatworthy of Winford and found in the custody of Thomas Williams of Dulverton; made to Thomas Siderfin 19th June, 1657.

6. Several depositions concerning some table linen and clothes lost by John Parsons of Nettlecombe and found on the body of Ann Cole otherwise Thomas; given to Thomas Siderfin, 27th May 1657.

7. Several depositions concerning a saddle and bridle worth a mark carried away from the sign of the Angel at Wiveliscombe during the fair by William Reed, who left a saddle and bridle not worth above two shillings instead thereof; given to Thomas Siderfin, 11th July, 1657.

8. Several depositions concerning a Brief left with Silvester Hurford minister of West Quantoxhead on 16th May by James Whitmore "as he called himself in the shewe of a minister." Mr. Hurford being suspicious detained the messenger who came for the collection made for the brief, and sent the tythingman to Holford who found a company of vagrants in a barn there, but not the said Whitmore. The brief purports to be issued by the Committee for Agreivances sitting at Westminster 2nd Jan 1656, for the benefit of George and Thomas Whitmore. They had freighted a ship at Bristol for New England which was

captured by Turkish pirates and carried to Sally, where the whole company remain in captivity until ransomed with fifteen hundred ducats.

9. Confession of Anna Sweet of Crewkerne concerning her present condition, made to Henry Bonner 14th April 1657.

10. Information of Captain John Whetham and Arthur Munday of Chard against Honour the wife of Thomas Bishop for keeping a common alehouse without licence; given to Henry Bonner 25th May 1657.

11. Confession of Mary Barrett late of South Petherton, concerning her present condition, made to Henry Bonner, George Sampson, and Thomas Currey, 15th April 1657.

12. Confession of Mary Hardwicke of Shepton Mallet, concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 29th June 1657.

13. Confession of Ruth Tripp of Loxton concerning her present condition, and that her first statement was not true; made to William Smith 19th Jan. and 27th May 1657.

14. Confession of Mary Bowles late of Coxley concerning her present condition, made to William Smith 21st May 1657.

15. Information of Philip Swadell of Wootton concerning the loss of a sheep which he found in the custody of Benjamin Clement of Pilton, given to William Smith 23rd May 1657.

16. Information of Zorobable Hooper of Huntspill regarding a brawl in his house; 22nd April 1657, given to William Smith.

17. Examination of Lettice the wife of Robert Hull of South Stoke, who hath been separated from her husband, and led a wandering life for seven years, before William Smith 12th June 1657.

18. Warrant issued 9th May 1657 by John Ashe to the constables of the Hundred and Tithing of Warminster to arrest certain persons named therein, who had behaved in a disorderly

manner at an unlicensed alehouse in the tything of East Woodlands, and assaulted Thomas Hales the tythingman.

19. Confession of Susanna Otle formerly servant with Edmond Greene of Milton Clevedon concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 9th February 1656-7.

20. Similar confession by Katherine Wake of West Lydford, 11th February 1656-7.

21. Similar confession by Edith Batten of Presley in the parish of Doulting, 22nd Dec. 1656.

22. Deposition of Henry Johnson of West Barn in the parish of Frary (*i.e.* Witham) made before Robert Hunt and John Cary 29th May 1657. On Saturday last he saw Edward Pye and Richard Fry come into his father-in-law's house with a buck's skin and venison in it, which they said that they had found in Highmeade wood.

23. Depositions of John Lasberry and John Windsor servants of Sir James Thynne Knt. of Longleat that they had tracked the theft of a deer by a bloodhound to the house of Edward Pye senior, and from thence to a pond near the house of Richard Fry where they found the skin and the umbles of a buck in the water. Corroborated by William Gardner tythingman of Witham. Richard Fry persisted that he had found the remains. Same time and place.

24. Confession of Joane Gardner of Broomfield concerning her present condition, made to John Gorges 7th March 1656-7.

25. Similar confession of Elizabeth Hewer of Holway in the parish of Taunton, made to Richard Bovett 22nd May 1657.

26. Certificate of Mr. Ash on behalf of Charles Hooker and William Tovy constables of the Liberty of Hinton and Norton. It is true that they refused to act on the warrant issued to the Hundred of Wellow (see 95, ii, 43, 44) as not being subject to that jurisdiction, but acting on his advice Mr. Tovy (on behalf of Hooker who was too sick to travel) sent a humble letter to Mr. Harington and Mr. Longe explaining their position "nor

had they (as they did hope) committed any contempt in giving their fair and civil answer to the Constables of Wellew," and therefore prayed that they might be left to the law.

27, 28. Depositions of several persons of Glastonbury against Samuel Austin. He was accused of incontinency with married women; on hearing a declaration of his highness the Lord Protector read in public about a year and a half since he said: "for my part I will not believe a word he saith," for which words he was reprov'd; he boasted that he had arrested the two constables, "and that he would never submit to or take off his hat to any justice of peace, and that he had as good law for it as any in England vizt. Mr. Maynard and Mr. Windham, and that the justice had no commission to be a justice but a warrant at large only." Taken before John Gutch, January and February, 1656-7.

29. Deposition of John Ford of Taunton James regarding indecent behaviour in the house of Benedict Symons; made to John Gorges 2nd Feb., 1656-7.

30. Confession of Hugh Brangwell late of Exeter that he stole divers articles of clothing from his lodging in Taunton James and disposed of them as he travelled; made to John Gorges 15th Feb., 1656-7.

31. Confession of Alice Daniell of Ivelchester concerning her present condition, made to Robert Hunt and George Sampson 18th Feb., 1656-7.

32. Statement of Thomas Rolt of Combe Abbas gent. given to Robert Hunt 6th April 1657. He had lost five leaves or lights of glass from a window in his house at Henstridge about Allhallowtide last and there being a great hoar frost on the ground he observed footprints near the window which were tracked towards Stalbridge. He afterwards found two of the missing lights in the shop of Christopher Snook at Stalbridge, and the foot he tracked in the frost was very like the foot of the said Snook.



33. Christopher Snook being examined said that he found the two lights of glass in a ground near Mr. Rolt's house and carried them home, but confesseth that he never told anybody of his find ; before Robert Hunt 6th April 1657.

34. Information of Robert Wichalse gent. and Elizabeth Burges both of Glastonbury that on the night of the 14th January 1656-7 at the sign of the Shipp there was so much noise caused by people ranting, drinking, and beating a drum, that nobody could sleep ; given to John Gutch.

35. Information given by the neighbours to William Cole 20th Jan. 1656-7 that Richard Morgan and Margaret Dennis do live incontinently in a house at Nailsea.

36. Confession of Trevenah Harris of Fivehead concerning her present condition, made to John Pyne 10th Feb. 1656-7.

37. Similar confession of Alice Poople of Langport, made to John Pyne 4th Dec. 1656.

38. Examination of Alexander Mattock of Curry Mallet before John Pyne 19th Jan. 1656-7. He knew nothing of the contents of the paper delivered by him to Philip Bawler, nor the name of the person who gave it to him ; and denied all the words which he was said to have used concerning the said paper.

39. Evidence given by several persons that John Stone of Langport butcher bought a heifer from Thomas Gamblyn of Aller which was thought to be sick of the murrain and sold the flesh at South Petherton market. He hath also sold veal only a month old : to John Barker 20th Jan. 1656-7.

40. Information of John Eemes and Philip Burge, both of Grenton, that on the 23rd December 1656, they with others drinking at the Black-boy at Ashcott, William Higgory drank a health to the King in these words : " Let us drink, let us sing, here's a health to our King, and it will never be well until we have one again." And he being asked whether he was drunk, or mad, or whether he intended to be hanged, quarrelled with the others. Given to John Barker 12th Jan. 1656-7.

41. Confession of Agatha Dowting of Long Sutton concerning her present condition, made to John Barker, 23rd Jan. 1656-7.

42. Similar confession of Johan Tytching of Somerton, 19th Jan. 1656-7.

43. Information of Edward Millington of Somerton, innholder, given to John Barker 26th Feb. 1656-7. James Peddle one of the constables of the said town came to his house at 4 in the morning on the Lord's day with John Hurd, being much distempered with drink, and pretending a search warrant for goods stolen and concealed made a great disturbance, threatened him with expensive law proceedings, and drank three jugs of beer before they went away.

44. Confession of Elizabeth Wine of Kingsdon concerning her present condition, made to John Carye and John Barker 8th Oct. 1656.

45. Similar confession of Ann Slade of Crewkerne, 27th Oct. 1656.

46. Similar confession of Mary Wyatt late of Ashill, 28th Oct. 1656, made (as also 45) to Henry Bonner.

47. Similar confession of Anne Goodland of Ilminster, made to George Sampson 27th Sept. 1656.

48. Similar confession of Jane Rendall of Stoford, made to George Sampson, 5th March 1656-7.

49. Similar confession of Katherine Fisher of Dinnington, 16th June 1656.

50. Similar confession of Edith Dinnis of Bowerhenton in Martock, 8th Sept. 1656.

51. Information of Robert Lavor of Witcombe in Martock of the cruel treatment of his apprentice by John Meaker, given to George Sampson 12th Dec. 1656.

52. Confession of Elizabeth David of Martock, concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson, 5th Jan. 1656-7.

53. Deposition of Robert Tyler of Crewkerne concerning the theft of hens, with which he chargeth Elizabeth Tooës, given to George Sampson, 12th Jan. 1656-7.

54. Deposition of John Giles constable of East Coker concerning the theft of some yarn. The two persons suspected said they found the yarn in the ditch of a close called chancery as they went home. Taken before George Sampson, 8th Jan. 1656-7.

55. Confession of Johane Aplin of Wincanton concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 1st April 1657.

56. Information of Nicholas Edridge constable of Wincanton of ill-usage received while endeavouring to keep the peace 1st April 1657; to John Carye.

57. Information of Joseph Chadock of Brewton that neither he nor the father can control his apprentice, and they wish him sent to the House of Correction, given to John Carye, 19th Jan. 1656-7.

58. Confession of Margaret Man concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 19th March, 1656-7.

59. Information given to John Carye 2nd Feb. 1656 by William Sentel now of Brewton concerning a conversation on greyhounds and a white buck killed in the park of Mr. Berkley, heard in the house of Thomas Walter aleseller.

60. Deposition of Robert Pollett of Wincanton tythingman that Bartholomew Phillips apprentice to Nathaniel Wimbolt did much abuse his master and struck the deponent several times to the great disturbance of the peace; made to John Carye, 10th March, 1656-7.

61. Complaint by Anthony Mortimer of Chilcompton to William Smith 24th March 1656-7 that Robert Penny knows

and will not disclose the name of the person who broke up his house on a Lord's day in November and stole some money and a silver spoon.

62. Information by Richard Perry of Glaston that when Samuel Austen was bought before Mr. Gutch to answer certain misdemeanours his brother John did maliciously interrupt the justice in his discourse, with a loud voice bidding him speak truth, intimating the justice had spoken a lye; given to William Smith, 23rd Feb. 1656-7.

63. Evidence of Thomas Mercer and others that Hugh Weech of Pilton had threatened to kill the said Mercer, and had used contemptuous words of the Justices calling them fig-pickers and hedge justices; given to William Smith, 5th Feb. 1656-7.

64. Information of Thomas Gibins of Bleadon given to William Smith 27th Jan. 1656-7. He arranged with some men that they should bring dogs to play while he procured a bull to be beaten, and also distributed the contents of a barrel of cider.

65. Information of Edward Lawrance of Burnham given to William Smith 4th Feb. 1656-7, that he charged Dorothy Harwood with stealing a peck of wheat which was laid out on a russett apron to air.

66. Information of John Clarke of Compton given to William Smith 10th Jan. 1656. While Thomas Corpe tythingman was trying to quiet a disturbance which had arisen between the deponent and Dorothy Sherman and her husband, the said Dorothy did much abuse the said Corpe.

67. Confession of Dorothy Roberts "a Welch wench," servant to John Blackland of Shepton Mallett, concerning her present condition made to William Smith 11th Dec. 1656.

68. Similar confession of Mary Lane of Wedmore, made to William Smith 29th Dec. 1656.

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## ROLL 96, PART I.

1. Order made by John Pyne and John Barker for the keeping of the child of Hannah Barton of Hatch Beauchamp, 8th April, 1656 (*qu.* 8).

2. Certificates signed by churchwardens and overseers of North Petherton that John Creech of Babcary hath given security for his illegitimate child, 6th April, 1658.

3. Certificate signed by many inhabitants of Dunster that Joane Macknees widow is a woman of civil deportment and free from all scandal whatsoever, in answer to the accusations brought by Richard Bower, 4th Oct. 1658.

4. Petition signed by the principal inhabitants of Wincanton, that whereas their town is overburdened with poor persons, the parish of Bratton (St. Maur) which has few (if any at all) poor needing relief, and is in the same tithing as Wincanton and payeth contribution to all other rates, church and poor excepted, may pay towards their poor. To the Justices at Taunton Sessions 4th July 1658.

5. Copy of order at Bridgwater Sessions, made by Thomas Yeamans deputy to the Clerk of the Peace, that Robert Hunt and John Cary be desired to view the gaol, and if they see cause, to order the Treasurer of the hospitals for the western division to issue money for the repair thereof.

6. The account of Gabriel Apsey carpenter for the repairs amounting to 2*li.*, 4*sh.*, 26th March, 1659.

7. The account of Edward Farman plumer, 1*li.*, 13*sh.* 4*d.* for repairs to the gaol.

8. Order by the Court at Wells Sessions 1658-9 confirming the order of William Smith settling Anne Alford at Weare.

9. License to Emanuel Holme of Ashcott to be a common badger of all manner of corn and grain, travelling with not above three horses at once. Given at Wells Sessions 10th Jan. 1658-9



by John Turberville, Robert Hunt, Thomas Baynard, and P. Roynon.

10. Order by John Turberville and George Trevelyan for Symon Morle with his family to be received back into the parish of Crowcombe, 26th May 1658.

11. Certificate by the inhabitants of Lydeard Laurence that they will discharge all costs which may be incurred by the parish officers in removing Symon Morle to Crowcombe.

12. Order signed by John Hipplesley and William Smith settling Christopher Heale and his family at Ashwick, 7th April 1658.

13. License to Roger Radnidge of Crowcombe to keep a common tipping house, signed by Hen. Coner and Edward Sealle, 14th July 1658. [A forgery, see no. 17.]

14. Articles of misdemeanour taken on oath before William Wyndham Esquire 18th Oct. 1658 against Arthur Middleton of Crowcombe for recovering by a false statement a mare seized at Lower Vexford in Stogumber under a warrant from the Sheriff.

15. Information of Lawrence Tuckwell and William Eglestone given to William Wyndham Esquire 18th Oct. 1658, that seeing a light in the tucking mill of William Short in Holford they went and found John Liky taking flocks from a shelf in the said mill.

16. Confession (fragmentary) of Mary Widlake (*qu.*) of Cutcombe concerning her present condition, made to Thomas Siderfin 2nd June 1658.

17. Information of Roger Radnidge of Crowcombe taken 12th Nov. 1658 before William Wyndham Esq. that he asked Arthur Middleton of Crowcombe to procure him a renewal of his licence at the next Sessions who promised to do so for half-a-crown; but when he produced the said licence (no. 14) at the private Sessions at Watchet 10th November it was found to be a

counterfeit licence. Arthur Middleton said that he procured the said licence from the men who made themselves out to be servants of Major Bonner and Justice Ceely of Bridgwater.

18. Statement by Henry Gill of Crowcombe to William Wyndham Esq. 1st Jan. 1658-9 detailing the circumstances under which he was induced to part with the lease of his cottage to Jennet Jones who went through the form of marriage with him although a married woman with husband and two children in Wales.

19. Information by Daniel Palmer of Hilsley in the parish of Hawkesbury Gloucestershire that the two tinkers wives arrested at North Stoke had certain mercery and grocery ware stolen out of his mother's shop on the night of the 22nd Dec. last. Given to John Harington 7th Jan. 1658-9.

20. Warrant by Richard Bovett to the Constables and tythingmen of Bishops Lydiard to arrest William Ballevant who has put Joane Daw of that place in fear of her life; 30th Dec. 1658.

21. Information of Joseph Grabham of Wiveliscombe that he found a parcel of wool lately stolen from him in the possession of Henry Markham; given to John Turberville 1st Nov. 1658.

22. Confession of Elizabeth Searle late servant to William Gunam of Aller, concerning her present condition, made to Edward Ceely 1st Nov. 1658. The said Gunam being the father of her child first tried to make her take a drink to destroy it before birth, and on her refusal attempted to kill her.

23. Accusation of John Jenkins junior of Broomfield for stealing two hens and carrying them away in his breeches; and at another time shooting seven pigeons; made to Edward Ceely 25th Dec. 1658.

24. Examination of Thomas Doubting and John Lullett concerning a deer found dead in the river near a park of ground of William Coles of Clevedon; taken before Thomas Baynard at Wrington 16th Nov. 1658.

25. Examination of Elizabeth Cay who had never stayed long in any one place for some time; taken before Thomas Baynard 28th Dec. 1658.

26. Information of Mr. John Davidge of Wells mercer that Thomas Needs refuseth to carry out his agreement to be bound apprentice to the said Mr. Davidge to his great prejudice; given to William Smith 8th Jan. 1658-9.

27. Information of Robert Jones tythingman of Midsomer Norton, given to William Smith 26th December, that yesterday being the Lords Day Tobyas Gullocke blacksmith came into the church as Mr. Thurlby minister of East Harptree was preaching and commanded him to come down with rogue and many other words, so that there was a "mutiny" in the church. At the command of the constable this informant carried him out of the church and set a guard upon him. Another witness gave evidence of Gullocke's blasphemy at several times.

28. Information of John Westover of Wedmore that as he was returning home from Brent fair last Michaelmas day he met in a dark place of the way certain men (named), one of whom tore half his cloak off his back and struck him so that he fell off his horse. One of the men named said that he saw men fighting and Westover struck with a pike staff or raven's bill. Two informations given to William Smith 15th Dec. 1658.

29. Eight depositions and examinations concerning the loss of fourteen sheep belonging to John Watts of Boden in the parish of Doulting, taken before William Smith 3rd Nov. 1658.

30. Five examinations concerning the loss of a dowlis shirt taken off the hedge of John Bowltinge at Wookey Hole. John Hancocke *als* Kingman is suspected as the measure of the tracks near the hedge agree with the measure of his feet; 26th Oct. 1658 before William Smith.

31. Seven examinations made by Robert Hunt 29th Nov. 1658 concerning the loss of "four hogg sheep, three chilver and one purr hogg," stolen from John Hardy of Woolscombe in

Dorset, and found in the field of Thomas Banwell at Yeovil all redded with fresh marks. Other sheep in the same field were challenged by other persons as their own.

32. Statement by Gabriel Reve of Charlton Horethorne gent., that coming home from evening prayers on 17th Oct. 1658 he found his desk broken up and forty shillings missing. Francis Speerman *als.* Fox his apprentice confessed the same evening that he slipped out of church during prayers, took the money and hid it in a hedge, and then returned to church. Made to Robert Hunt 20th Oct. 1658.

33. Five informations concerning the loss of a fat sheep belonging to Jeffrey Paysing of Chard, and evidence given by persons residing at Libnash in Cudworth. Given to Thomas Currey 29th Oct. 1658.

34. Four depositions taken before Edward Sealy 6th Nov. 1658. A house in Weston was claimed by Elizabeth Bawdon and William Long who each sent a carpenter to execute repairs. They met in the house and the result was a brawl.

35. Information of Mary Rogers wife of William Rogers of North Petherton miller that she lost 6*s*. and 6*d*. the same day her servant went away. Ann Blew the servant denieth the theft. Given to Edward Sealy 25th Nov. 1658.

36. Information of Richard Danyell of Chedzoy given to the same Justice 27th Nov. 1658 concerning the loss of eleven geese. John Ostler who was suspected said he went to a house to light a pipe of tobacco and after viewing his ground near the moore went home to bed, and knows nothing of the geese.

37. Information of Grace Thomas of Gotehurst concerning the loss of two roasting pigs. The houses of two suspected persons were searched but no pig; but some mutton was found hidden in a pann and some tallow found in a pot buried in the garden. Before Edward Sealy 23rd October 1658. Three depositions.

38. Information of Mary Bond of Puriton that Robert Edington *als* Cox had assaulted her with a pike staff because she had given evidence of his immoral behaviour. To Edward Sealy 4th Jan. 1658-9.

39. Confession of Jane Bagg of North Petherton concerning her present condition, made to Edward Sealy 25th October 1658.

40. Examination of Thomas Banwell of Yeovil and others concerning some stolen sheep (see no. 31); taken before John Carye 26th Nov. 1658.

41. Statement of John Perratt constable of the Liberty of Bourton in Dorsetshire regarding his efforts to arrest William Rendells, father and son, men of very evil fame and often in suspicion for stealing sheep, for stealing sheep belonging to Sir Charles Berkley of Brewton; taken before John Carye 1st Dec. 1658 [paper much damaged].

42. Confession of Margaret Drew of Brewton widow, concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 25th Feb. 1657-8.

43. John Clark tythingman of Brewton complained to John Carye 15th Dec. 1658 that Robert Pavy barber having been lately convicted for trimming on the Lord's Day did much abuse him, and after being rebuked continued to do so.

44. Evidence given by Thomas Snook of Chesterblade that John Hibberd of the same place killed a sheep belonging to Mr. Smyth; and John Hibberd confessed that he did so; taken before John Carye 7th Jan. 1658-9.

45. Confession of Justine Flint of Over Stratton in South Petherton concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 27th Dec. 1658.

46. Similar confession of Christibell Gundry of Fivehead, made to George Sampson and Thomas Currey, 11th Nov. 1658.

47. Evidence given by William Gawler and William Carter both of Martock that the goods stolen from them were found in



the house of Robert Clarke ; taken before George Sampson 31st Dec. 1658.

48. Statement by John Hooper of Selworthy that he lost a sheep from the common at Hunicott combe ; statement by Robert Brage undertythingman that having found a sheep killed and dressed, and hanging against a tree in Hunicott wood, he conveyed himself privily into the said wood at twilight and then perceived John Philpes to come and take away the mutton, which was afterwards found in his house ; made to Charles Steynings, 20th Oct. 1658.

49. Confession of Elizabeth Rowland of Winsford concerning her present condition, made to Thomas Siderfin 2nd Dec. 1658.

50. Similar confession by Elizabeth Knight, made to Thomas Siderfin 14 Oct. 1658.

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ROLL 96, PART II.

1. Information of Hugh Downe, given to William Wyndham Esq. 17th July 1658, that he saw Thomas Gamlyn take a peck of coals from his lime kiln by the sea shore at West Quantoxhed.

2. Confession of Joane Joyce to William Wyndham 20th July 1658, that she did steal certain wearing apparell from her mistress Margaret Bowring of Capton widow.

3. Information of John Kerle of Middlezoy taken before Francis Rolle 1st Sept., 1658, that on the 17th August as he was in the house of Marmaduke Purse, twenty persons named and unknown broke into the house and ill-treated them so much that this informant dare not go about his ordinary occasions.

4. Information of James Butler, taken as above, that as he with others was gathering corn for Mr. Powell in Otherey fields, Peter Oswald with others came and assaulted him in a desperate manner. Benjamin Chicke struck him and said : Sirrah I will make you and Mr. Powell wallow in your own blood.

5. Information of Francis Carver of Chelton (Chilton Polden) given to Francis Rolle 8th Aug., 1658, that on the 3rd August Thomas Pope of Chelton though so full of drink that he could not sit upon his horse without reeling, did greatly abuse and threaten this informant.

6. Information of Mary wife of William Danyel of Yeovil, mercer, given to Thomas Currey 7th August, 1658, that on searching the box of her late servant Abigail Hobbs she found a great variety of goods which she believes were stolen out of her husband's shop. Very unsatisfactory explanation by the said Abigail.

7. Information of John Bragge the bayliffe of Langport, given to Francis Rolle 27th Aug., 1658, that Ambrose Manfield has challenged him to fight with a sword in a place called Cockle moore saying he would leave this informant behind or this informant should leave him behind with other threatening speeches.

8. Information of John Bonville of Clapton gent. given to Thomas Currey 22nd Aug., 1658, that some time since he saw Charles Barrow of Clapton miller take away from his barton at night a piece of cleft wood as big as he could carry.

9. Information of Roger Hutchins of Merriott taken before Thomas Currey 12th Aug., 1658. While reaping in Crewkerne field for Giles Wills of Merriott, John Lawrence of Hinton St. George stopped them and set his own men to reap. The wife and daughters of Wills came and tried to remove the sheaves already cut, when the said Lawrence took them away, pushed down the mother and kicked one of the daughters so that she cried out very much. Further evidence by the said Giles Wills and his sister-in-law Ellinor Somers.

10. Information of Margaret wife of John Bonville of Clapton, and of William Kember the tythingman, of a case of incest in the village; given to Thomas Currey 23rd Aug., 1658.

11. Confession of Stephen Barrow late of Clapton that he and a fellow servant left the service of John Bonville and went to

Bristol meaning to go beyond the sea. The other servant bound himself to go to Virginia, but he came home again. Given to Thomas Curry 27th Sept., 1658.

12. Confession of Mary Barrett of South Petherton concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 16th Jan., 1657-8.

13. Similar confession of Mary Ewens of Worle, made to Thomas Baynard 26th July, 1658.

14. Information by Thomas George of Congresbury that he found his master's mare on the moor wounded in the near buttock. Given to Thomas Baynard 3rd August, 1658.

15. Confession of Abigail Hay of Milton Clevedon, concerning her present condition, made to John Carye, 8th June, 1658.

16. Information of Thomas Whitehead of Alhampton carpenter, concerning the theft of some timber; given to John Carye, 29th Aug., 1658.

17. Complaint of Robert Tyte the elder of Stalbridge gent., that on the night of 1st September he met certain persons (named) of Charlton Horethorne in a narrow lane, one of whom struck him on the head with a piked staff saying they had a warrant for him, but it was not shown. He demands the good behaviour against them. Before John Carye 18th Sept., 1658.

18. Evidence of several inhabitants of Curry Rivel, including that of Daniel Powell who on the evening of Curry fair day (9th August) was violently assaulted and beaten in his own house by Andrew Owsley and others of Long Sutton; given to John Pyne 13th Aug., 1658.

19. Examination of John Perrye of Fivehead who is charged with the theft of divers sheaves of corn, and of a fat sheep belonging to Captain Barnard. Taken before John Pyne 30th August, 1658.

20. Examination of Joan Brownsey of Whitestanton, who is charged with stealing some ribbon while looking after the house and children of Tristraham Berrye of that place ; taken before John Pyne, 23rd July, 1658.

21. Examination of Ann wife of Henry Chanc of Hatch Beauchamp craving the peace against Hugh Bussell and Thomas Bussell who have put her in great fear by their threatening language ; taken before John Pyne 29th June 1658.

22. Similar craving by Elizabeth Maylard of Stocklinch Magdalen against her master Thomas Jefferye for his ill-treatment ; taken before John Pyne 15th July, 1658.

23. Evidence of Richard Jeanes servant unto Gregory Ceelye of Knapp in North Curry that two stick of wheat taken out of his master's ground were found in the house of Henry Bettye the elder. Henry Bettye the younger said that he found the wheat under a hedge ; given to John Pyne 9th Sept., 1658.

24. Confession of Hannah Hampton of Hatch Beauchamp concerning her present condition, made to John Pyne 4th Sept., 1658.

25. Similar confession of Susanna Walker of Spaxton, made to Edward Sealy 10th Sept., 1658.

26. Similar confession of Elizabeth Andrewes of Puriton, 6th Sept., 1658.

27. Information of George Burnett of Fiddington that when he was watchman there on the 14th June Thomas Nobis the tythingman carried him to an alehouse and kept him there until the evening, during which time no watch was kept. Richard Holmes stated that the said Nobis did the same by him about three weeks sithence ; given to Edward Sealy 30th Sept., 1658.

28. Information of Jean Cuffe of North Petherton that Frances the wife of John Buncombe has been beaten by Robert Barker, and in her judgement is liklier to die than to live ; given to Edward Sealy, 1st Oct., 1658.

29. Information of Robert Coombes of Wanstrow that on Thursday last Anthony Casebeard of North Wooton broad-weaver and another man came to a piece of ground in his own and quiet possession since 18th March last, and with "peekes" or pronges in their hands did cut down the quick hedge and carried away a wainsload and half of hay which he had made; given to William Smith 31st July 1658.

30. Information of Richard Warde of Huntspill that on "Saturday was sennight last" in the evening he saw James Smith late of Berrow step up on a window belonging to the house of Mr. John Curle; and the said Curle being told of this the next day found that two cheeses were missing; given to William Smith 5th Aug. 1658.

31. Information of Ellis Frye the elder and Ellis Frye the younger that on Sunday night sennight they caught four persons stealing beans in the field of William Dickes of Upton Noble; given to William Smith 16th Sept. 1658.

32. William Churchey of Glaston heard Henry Bream utter these words: that it would not be long ere Justice Gutch would be outed by Samuel Austin and his commission taken from him, it is looked for every day; and that there is a rod in p—e for him; and further that although the widow Earle was sent to Bridewell by the said justice Gutch, Samuel Austin would fetch her back again before she came thither. Given to William Smith 1st Oct. 1658.

33. Mr. Smith granted a warrant 22nd Sept. last against Matthew Hamm of Compton Dunden for ravishing Mary Strode of the same place. The officer brought them before me to answer the warrant, when they said they were married; and examining many other circumstances I find it a very trepand in the wench and her father to get the said Hamm to marry with her; so I leave it to the judgement of the Court. John Gutch.

34. Confession of Mary Fussell of Dunkerton concerning her present condition, made to John Ashe 20th July 1658.



35A. Evidence of Joseph Applin yeoman, one of the constables of Somerton, of the incendiary and violent speeches and actions of William Spurlocke of that town ; given to John Gutch 31st Aug. 1658.

35B. Evidence of Rose Lock servant to Nicholas Locke of Glaston innkeeper of the theft of a tin flagon by a customer ; 25th Aug. 1658.

36. Confessions of Mary Robbins of Durstyn concerning her present condition, and of Mary Morriss of Taunton James touching the true father of her child ; made to Richard Bovett, July 1658.

37. Evidence of James Pile constable of Buckland that Thomas Barber did resist him in his office apprehending the said Barber, and that John Leman did refuse to assist him ; given to Richard Bovett 4th Sept. 1658.

38. Information of Robert Stuckey of Kingsdon that on the 17th July being awakened by cries of fire ! fire ! he went out and found the house of Thomas Bartlett cobbler to be on fire ; but he did not hear the said Bartlett call out for help, nor was the fire in his hall but in an upper chamber when he saw a pile of wood on fire near an open window ; given to Robert Hunt and John Barker 29th July 1658.

39. Information of Dorothy Rixon of Kingsdon that she saw the said Bartlett standing in his garden and laughing without doing anything to stop the said fire ; given to Robert Hunt and John Barker on 5th Aug. 1658.

40. Evidence of Thomas Bartlett cordwiner, Anne his wife, and Abigail Evans, all of Kingsdon, given to John Barker 22nd July 1658. They all say that Johane wife of Matthew Hilborne is a common swearer, a disturber of her neighbours, a common makebate and troublesome person. She hath accused the said Bartlett of being a witch, and said that she would burn his house and all his conjuring books.

41. Evidence of divers persons that Eleanor Slade of Nettlecombe had blackmailed Robert Pime for selling beer contrary to the statute, given to George Trevelyan 24th July 1658.

42. A very confused series of statements implicating several persons living at Withiel (Florey) and Wiveliscombe of perjury in connection with a case to be tried at the Chard assizes; Gregory Venn, Robert Coording, and Thomas Langdon were the principals in the matter. Taken before George Trevelyan 24th July 1658.

43. Articles of the good behaviour exhibited against Johane Macknes widow, of Dunster; taken before Thomas Siderfin 23rd Aug. 1658.

44. Order of John Hippisley and Richard Jones for the relief of Hinton Bluett from the base child of Mary Cox; 10th April 1658.

45. Order of the Court at Ivelchester 1658 that William Smith and John Gutch to make an order for the settlement of Peter Goodgroome who hath lately come to Wedmore.

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ROLL 97.

1. Certificate of certain inhabitants of Bridgwater that William Cam of Otterhampton has given security for his bastard child, 20th July 1659.

2. Humble petition to the Taunton Sessions 1659 by Henry Brickell underkeeper of the gaol at Ilchester that whereas he has laid out 33*s* <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. 4*d*, on the new casting of the pump which was so much decayed that the prisoners could not have water without much trouble, this sum may be repaid.

3. Receipted account of Edward Harman plumber for doing the work.

4. Certificate of John Pyne that John Stuckey and Ann Stuckey of Ilebrewers have given security to the parish of Ile Abbotts for the bastard child of the said John Stuckey 5th April 1659.

5. Humble petition of John Blanden dated London 18th May 1659 to the justices of Somerset that the arrears of pension owing to the loss of his order may be paid without which he and eight children are ready to perish. Endorsed: Let him bring his order.

6. Humble petition of Ann Woodland of Taunton St. James to the Right Worshipful John Turberville Esq., judge of the Sessions at Taunton 1659. Owing to the loss of sight of one eye desires relief from the parish authorities. Endorsed referred to two next justices.

7. Statement of Hugh Davy of Lanon in Wales, made to Edward Sealy 4th Jan. 1659-60, A fortnight ago he stayed the night at the White Hart in North Currey kept by Robert Saxton, and was led on to drink the next day so much that he stayed there another night, and then found that his money amounting to about 50 shillings was taken out of his purse. On complaining to Saxton he advised him to tell his master that he was robbed in the forest of Ratch (Neroche); but he believes that either Robert or John Saxton do know of the taking away of his money.

8. Statement of John Saxon who denieth any knowledge of the money lost by Hugh Davy.

9. Similar statement and denial by Robert Saxon. These two taken at the same time as No. 7.

10. Confession of Mary Insewell of Otterhampton, concerning her present condition; made to Edward Sealy 19th Dec. 1659.

11. Information of Ann Legg of Spaxton, who saw John Cavell come down from a tree with one of her mistresses fowls under his coat; given to Edward Sealy, 15th Dec. 1659.

12. Confession of Welthyan Shutter of North Petherton, concerning her present condition, made to Edward Sealy 7th Nov. 1659.

13. Information of Robert Hooper of Old Cleeve given to Nicholas Blake 18th Nov. 1659. He found the skins of three sheep which his father had lost in the house of Thomas Wilkins of Dunster glover with one ear of each skin newly cut off.

14. Confession of Richard Olman of Withycombe butcher that he drove three sheep belonging to Humphrey Hooper from Lower Cleeve hill, and sold the skins to Thomas Wilkins.

15. Information of Thomas Wilkins that he bought the skins and paid nine shillings and nine pence for them. These two taken at the same time as No. 13.

16. Information of John Steevens of Cary Fitzpaine concerning the disappearance of certain pies from the oven of his master Henry Creech ; given to Giles Strangwais 3rd Aug. 1659.

17. Examination of William Wilmot of Somerton fuller taken before Giles Strangwais 7th Dec. 1659 ; who saith that the larrows for which he is arrested were his owne goods and did not belong to Ursula Lance as (by reason of former malice borne) he is informed. And more saith not.

18. Three statements by Jane Beaton the elder, Jane Beaton the younger her sister and Francis wife of John Crossman *als.* Peters, all of Somerton, concerning a whittle lost by the younger Beaton and sold to Crossman by Katherine Strode ; 17th Nov. 1659.

19. Confession of Giles Waters, late of Cary Fitzpaine, that he took and eat part of the pie and returned the rest again ; made to Giles Strangwais 3rd Aug. 1659. [See No. 16.]

20. Information of Richard Hewatt of Northover in Glastonbury fuller, given to Giles Strangwais 7th Dec. 1659 ; who saith that his dame Ursula Lance lost two larrows worth five shillings,

and that Robert Marsh one of the constables of Somerton Hundred found in the house of William Wilmat the larrows cloven in pieces and put in the oven and the rack-hooks that were in the larrows were found in the fire in the said house.

21. Information of Jeffrey Smith *als.* Seavier of Queen Camel and Steven Hockey of Downhead in West Camel concerning the loss of shears and coulter. Thomas Springer denied that he ever offered such for sale or had them in his possession; all given to William Pitman 28th Oct. 1659.

22. Information of William Champion of Wootton in the parish of Butleigh concerning the loss of a black heifer the body of which was found in the slaughter house of William Spurlocke of Somerton, and the hide hid under the bed mat on which his wife was lying. William Spurlocke said that he bought the heifer from Philip Masters of Wootton, but offered no explanation of the hide being found under his bed. All given to John Barker 25th Oct. 1659.

23. Confession of Ann Stuckey of Dinnington, concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 29th July 1659.

24. Information of John Sweete of Lopen concerning the loss of a wether sheep. Thomas Gillett of Coate in Martock gave a very weak reason for the sheep being found cut in two in a sack on his horses back and for another bag filled with hay. Given to George Sampson, 19th Dec. 1658.

25. Information of Thomas Warre Esq. and John Lewellen of Shepton Beauchamp, given to George Sampson 21st Dec. 1659, who say that on the 19th December John Manninge the elder John Manninge the younger, George Bacon and others did impound four cows belonging to them, and resisted the constable when he came to suppress the riotous assembling of the aforesaid persons.

26. Confession of Richard Smith of the City of Bath labourer before John Bigges mayor and others that he did steal



one sheep out of the ground called the Lawne in the parish of Widcombe and Lyncombe, 6th Jan. 1659-60.

27. Information of severall persons all tending to show that William Locke of Marke, butcher, was in the habit of stealing sheep from the moor; given to John Gutch 30th August 1659.

28. Information (very contradictory) respecting the rightful ownership of some cattle driven through Glaston late in the evening by William Kelway *als.* George of that place; given to John Gutch 21st Oct. 1659.

29. Statement of Thomas Page of Taunton chirurgion given to Philip Lissant mayor that he missed some money kept in a box in his shop; and confession of Thomas Brimscombe that he took the money; 23rd Jan. 1659-60.

30. Confession of Thomas Weekes of Witcombe that he helped Richard Smith to steal a sheep (see No. 26); given to John Harrington 7th Jan. (1659-60).

31. Confession of William Long of Walkham (Walcombe) in the parish of St. Cuthberts in Wells that he did carry away a piece of elm from the barn of Mr. Whiting where he had been threshing; but that it was the first and last goods that ever he carried away in such a manner; given to William Smith 15th Nov. 1659.

32. Confession of Thomas Redman of Mells to William Whiting Esq. 14th Oct. 1659 that a pig belonging to Mary Guning having come into his mill he threw a hammer and killed it, and then dressed it; but it was the first he ever served so, and it should be the last.

33. Statement of George Ewings of Brewham concerning his movements on the Sunday before Christmas Day, made to William Whiting 29th Dec. 1659.

34. Information of Mr. John Gifford of Alhampton that on 8th December he missed a cow out of his ground; and of Henry

Walker that very early on Monday morning as he was travelling from his house at Brewham towards Somerton market he met George Ewings of New Hitchings or Holt in Witham Frary and another driving a beast near Flitt bridge, and mistrusting their proceedings he told such persons as he met by the way, that if any had lost a beast, they might track it and the men through the snow near the bridge aforesaid. Given to William Whiting 29th Dec. 1659.

35. Confession of Alce Symes of Easton (in Wells) concerning her present condition, made to William Whiting 1st Oct. 1659.

36. Statement by Mary Gunings of Mells concerning her pig killed by Thomas Redman (see No. 32); given to William Whiting 14th Oct. 1659.

37. Information of Philip Symes of East Brent that Leonard Weeb of Baggworth had picked his pocket, but he had no other way to make it good, but by oath; given to William Whiting 1st Dec. 1659.

38. Articles of misdemeanour of the evil behaviour exhibited against John Cookisly of Cutcombe and Mary Hobbs of the same for their outrageous behaviour to Thomas Cookisley and Barbara Arnold father and sister of the said John; before Nicholas Blake 29th Sept. 1659.

39. Information by several persons that William Parsons of Kingsbury said about midsummer that the Parliament then sitting were not men sufficient but were fools and turncoats and lived on other mens means; also that it would not be peace until there was a King; also that we should see the Parliament turn for that the King would be here the next week; given to George Sampson 22nd September 1659.

40. Evidence of Tobias Hitchcocke of Somerton that Joseph Francklyn gent. of the same place pretending a warrant attached two hampers or potts the goods of John Foster of North Petherton, in the market place of Somerton; given to Giles Strangwais and John Barker 1st Aug. 1659.

41. Information of Thomas Clarke of Beere (in High Ham) accusing William Welsh of Middlezoy of stealing a ewe lamb; and the explanation of William Welsh that he found the lamb by itself on Beere wall near a ditch, and fearing it would fall into the ditch carried it home, and on enquiry being made sent it back to Clarke. Told to John Barker 23rd July 1659.

42. Confession of Anne Nicholas of Chewton concerning her present condition, made to William Whiting 5th Sept. 1659.

43. Account of a quarrel between James Plumer and John Harvey both of Wells, whereby Harvey is stabbed and very dangerously wounded. Taken 15th Sept. 1659; the justice not named.

44. Statement by John Parsons and Jeffery Best that Joan Wight consulted Robert Chester of Wells conjurer (where she hath been several times by her own confession) to enquire about the loss of a silver spoon belonging to her master; and that he told her it was still in the house. 4th Sept. 1659, no justice named.

45. Information of Hugh Chedgie of Williton given to Nicholas Blake 19th Sept. 1659 that James Manning of that place spake words against the Parliament.

46. Examination of Robert Baker the loser, Rebecca Baker, the receiver, and Johanne Oldford the stealer, of a pewter flagon, all of Crewkerne; taken before George Sampson 27th Sept. 1659.

47. Information of Jane wife of Robert Asten of Camel and of Mary Asten that there is a report in their parish that William Brock had listed himself a soldier. The said Brock being examined saith that he was drinking with two of Martock, and when the ale was in the wit was out and that he listed himself, and more would not say; George Sampson 3rd July 1659.

48. Confession of Elizabeth Parsons of Martock concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 23rd Aug. 1659.

49. Statement by Thomas Easton and Clement Allen of White-Staunton that as they were keeping watch on the night of the 3rd September, they detained George Michell of Crockstreet to learn his business, when suddenly rode up James Tutchet of Donyat who struck the said Easton twice to the ground and being demanded who he was replied "Robin Hood"; with great difficulty they were carried before the tythingman; given to Henry Bonner 5th Sept. 1659.

50. Information of Elizabeth wife of John Banks of Yeovil concerning some drapery stolen for which she accuseth Grace Hammon and Grace Thomas; given to William Pitman 12th Sept. 1659.

51. Information of Thomas Francis of Yeovil husbandman that he hath lost five hemp "shoats," which were found by the tythingman of Henford in the house of Thomas Leveredge. Anne wife of William Cheyney confessed that she stole the hemp out of Pennfield; given to William Pitman 7th Sept. 1659.

52. Information of Giles Jordan of Yeovil (Yeavill) alehouse keeper that Richard Collins of Barwick miller should say: he was a cavaleer, and he would be a cavaleer, and the devil should take all them that would not be cavaleers; given to William Pitman 6th August 1659.

53. Information of Thomas Southey of Milverton that he hath lately lost a brass cauldron and several faggots; given to John Turberville 29th July 1659.

54. Information of Robert Bartlett of Lilstock that about four o'clock in the morning of 28th July John Shepherd of Kilton came and confessed he had been very bold in taking away an elm plank and offered to pay for it. He had been detected taking away the plank by Thomas Pryor the night before; hence his contrition. Given to Edward Sealy 1st Aug. 1659.

55. Information of Maud wife of Thomas Collar of Woolavington given to Edward Sealy 2nd Aug. 1659. As she was returning home by herself from Bridgwater market on or about 7th July, Adrian Towes of Marke overtook her and calling her

ugly toad demanded her name ; he then knocked her down and demanded her purse, to which hiding her purse she replied that she had bestowed all her money in the market. He then said " I think you are a Quaker," and she denied it, he compelled her to kneel down on her bare knees and swear by the Lord's Blood that she was not, which to save her life she did. Another woman then came up and rebuked the said Towes whereupon he struck her down " atwhart " her saddle into one of her panniers.

56. Note by Edward Sealy that he had convicted John James of Wembdon for tippling without licence ; and Adrian Towes of Mark for swearing three oaths, 2nd Aug. 1659.

57. Confession of Jeane Martyn of Spaxton concerning her present condition, made to Edward Sealy 22nd Sept. 1659.

58. Information of John Slape of Thurloxtton given to Edward Ceely 8th Aug. 1659, that as he was going to see Mr. Popham's corn he met five men (named) who demanded of him whether he was for the King or for the Parliament, to which he answered " what is that to any of you ? " Then they bid him stand and asked if he had any money ; and one took his hand but did not offer any violence to him.

59. Information of Christopher There of Huntspill, given to Edward Ceely 26th Aug. 1659, that Robert Symes of Burnham said " It could never be well with this land without a head (to wit) the Prince Charles," and that he would lay ten pounds that the said Prince Charles was King of England before Michaelmass (so near as it was) ; being asked why he was so much for the Prince, he replied because the nation was his right, and he hoped to see a hundred such rogues (as this informant was) hanged.

60. Confession of Sarah Herne of Durleigh concerning her present condition, made to Benjamin Blake 27th Aug. 1659.

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## ROLL 98, PART I.

1. Order made by Robert Hunt and John Cary 13th April 1659 concerning the child of Elizabeth Leman of Horsington.

2. Certificate of the overseers of Mark that Thomas Teecke has given security for the maintenance of his child.

3. Order made by Edward Ceely and Richard Bovett 5th Jan. 1659-60 concerning the child of Elizabeth Moore of Wellington.

4. Order made by John Turberville and William Smith 10th Jan. 1659-60 concerning the child of Ann Nicholas of Chewten.

5. Order made by Edward Ceely and Edward Sealy 20th July 1659 concerning the child of Susan Ingram of Bridgwater.

6. Order made by John Turberville and William Smith 11th Jan. 1659-60 concerning the child of Katherine Daines of Brompton Ralph.

7. Order made by John Gutch and William Smith 11th July 1659 concerning the child of Sarah Norman of Midsomer Norton.

8. Order made by Henry Bonner and George Sampson 21st July 1659 concerning the child of Bearsheba Paule of Ilminster.

9. Kalendar of prisoners in the House of Correction at Ilchester, produced at the Ilchester Sessions 13th April 1659. Four men and lads, and two women.

10. Kalendar of prisoners committed to the House of Correction at Taunton since the Ilchester Sessions 12th April 1659. Eight men and as many women. Produced at Taunton.

11. Kalendar of prisoners committed to the House of Correction at Taunton since the Wells Sessions 1st Jan. 1658-9. Produced at Ilchester 12th April 1659. Three men, three women.

12. Kalendar of William Lacy Esq. high sheriff, of all the prisoners in Ilchester gaol that are to appear at the Taunton Sessions 12th July 1659. Eleven men, three women.

13. Kalendar of prisoners and sentences at the Wells Sessions, 1659-60.

14. Kalendar of William Lacy of the prisoners now in the gaol that are to appear at the Ilchester Sessions, 1659.

15. Kalendar of prisoners and sentences at the Bridgwater Sessions, 1659.

16. Kalendar of prisoners and sentences at the Taunton Sessions 1659.

17. Order made by William Smith and John Gutch to the authorities at West Bradley to return Maximilian Stone to East Lydford where he was formerly settled.

18. Copy of the order made at Ilchester Sessions 1659 for Mr. John Pitts and Mrs. Bond widow to repair the chancel of Ashill Church as they do enjoy the glebe and tithes of the said parish.

19. Copy of the order made at Ilchester Sessions 1659 for the treasurers of the Hospitals to pay to Mr. Tristram Wood late treasurer of the maimed soldiers six pounds, fourteen shillings and two pence now due to him on his account.

20. Copy of the order made at Ilchester Sessions 1659 for the authorities of Thorne to return Prudence Hurley and her children to Holcombe Rogus where they were last settled.

21. Copy of the order made at Wells Sessions 1659-60 giving leave to William Jones of Keynsham to keep a common alehouse during one whole year and no longer.

22. Copy of a presentment made by the jurors for the Keepers of the Liberties of England at the Wells Sessions 1659-60 against John Perry of Gregory Stoke for fraudulently collecting small sums of money from several persons named without any authority on 1st Oct. 1658.

23. Copy of the order made at Taunton Sessions 1659, authorizing the treasurers of the Hospitals to pay ten pounds to the treasurer of the maimed soldiers. Examined by me Tho. Yeamans Clerk of the Peace. On the back a list of fifty names of soldiers paid at Taunton Sessions.

24. Articles of the good behaviour exhibited against Gregory Watts *als.* Simons of Withicombe before Thomas Siderfin, 6th May 1659. He had stirred up strife between man and wife.

25. Evidence of divers persons in Stogumber regarding the incontinent behaviour of John Morris and Dorothy Knight; given to George Trevelyan 8th Feb. 1658-9.

26. Information by Hugh Bishopp of Enmore of his ill-treatment at the hands of Robert Merricke and Gyles Taunton boatmen at Comwich; given to Edward Sealy 5th Feb. 1658-9.

27. Order made by William Whiting and John Gutch 3rd Jan. 1659-60 concerning the child of Frances Graunt of Milton Clevedon.

28. Order made by John Carye and John Gutch 11th Jan. 1659-60, concerning the child of Joane Lockyer of West Pennard.

29. Information by William Morris tythingman of Huntspill that John Allen refused to open his door to him when he held a warrant to search for some poultry supposed to have been stolen by one Ham Beacham a known and notorious thief and likely to be there; given to Edward Sealy 13th Jan. 1658-9.

30. Confession of Ursula Kebby of Venus Sutton (Sutton Mallet) concerning her present condition, given to Edward Sealy 5th Feb. 1658-9.

31. Information of Symon Dobyn of Aishcott, given to Edward Sealy 4th April 1659, that Gyles Randall tythingman of Street refused to execute a warrant issued by Robert Hunt for the appearance before him of Jasper Batt.

32. Denial of Nicholas Whieting that he was present at the killing of the geese of one widow Robyns. Edward Ceely, 15th Feb. 1658-9.

33. Information of Thomas Hayes and William Gent taken before Edward Ceely at the same time that Thomas Cronnow had found Richard and Nicholas at midnight taking geese which they had shot out of the water and cutting off their feet, which were afterwards found to bear the mark of the widow Robyns.

34. Information of the said widow, of Gregory Stoke, that she had lost eight geese.

35. Information of James Robbyns of Durston of the lewd behaviour of his sister; given to Edward Ceely 17th Jan. 1658-9.

36. Information of Richard Whieting to Edward Ceely 15th Feb. 1658-9 that being in the house of Bartholomew Gill of Linge he heard a piece go off, and going down they found Thomas Cronnow with a great many geese there dead, and he carried one of them away.

37. Articles of the good behaviour exhibited against John Norman of Winsford for ill-treating the cattle and killing the mare of Robert Hawtin; before Thomas Siderfin 24th Jan. 1658-9.

38. Evidence given by Thomas Partridge of Carhampton concerning the loss of a hen value six pence, given to Thomas Siderfin 15 Feb. 1658-9.

39. Articles of the good behaviour against John Templer of Dunster whitebaker for his violent language and behaviour; before Thomas Siderfin 6th April 1659.

40. Information of John Bishopp of Hurdcott in Somerton and of others, tending to prove that William Spurlocke of Somerton butcher had taken away four of his sheep and feloniously disposed of them; given to John Barker 7th April 1659.

41. Information of Ann the wife of William Prewett of Brockley regarding an attempted assault by John Godwin of Nurse in the parish of Nailsea; given to Thomas Baynard 8th March 1658-9.

42. Confession of Elizabeth Howell of Pensford concerning her present condition, made to Peter Roynon 7th March 1658-9.

43. Information of Joseph Applyn of Somerton 8th April 1659, given to John Barker, concerning the following conversation had with Andrew Ball late of Long Sutton: receiving this salutation from the said Andrew, How now you Harrington's rogue; he replied, from what country came you? Andrew answered, from the rogue Harrington thy captain. Sirrah he replied, not so sir, Capt. Harrington is a very worthy gentleman and does not deserve this language. The said Andrew replied: Sirrah you lye, he is an unworthy fellow and hath so abused me that I never received such abuse from any man before now; saying further, Thou Applyn wilt be ready to tell him what I say, he is a base unworthy gentleman; his father was a good man, but he is a young fool, and puny boy, and yet the City of Bath would choose him a Burgess. It is more for fear than love because he wears a sword. And think you this boy wont make a brave Parliament man. [And more to the same effect.] The said Applyn replied: Sir, if this be your language farewell, and so departed.

44. Statement of Thomas Townsend of Combe St. Nicholas that some hay that was stolen from his rick was found in the stall of Humfrey Rowswell, whom he as a churchwarden with the constable and tythingman found to be absent from church on the Lords Day. The said Rowswell confessed that he had taken a small parcel of hay; given to Henry Bonner 21st March 1658-9.

45. Information of Susanna Slade *als.* Parsons of Ilminster given to Henry Bonner 14th Feb. 1658-9 that when she was at the sign of the White Lion to receive fourteen shillings from William Hill, one Richard Burrage pretending an attachment seized the money.



## ROLL 98, PART II.

1. Information of Joane wife of Richard Batten of Beaminster given to Thomas Currey 14th Feb. 1658-9, of an assault on her by Henry Bampfield.

2. Information of Thomas Baker tythingman of Cricket Thomas given to Thomas Currey 6th April 1659, that he served a warrant for the good behaviour on Henry Bampfield of Cricket and took him to Crewkerne to the Swan inn, whence on some disturbance between Bampfield, Mr. Brice of Dinnington who was his surety, and Mr. Keymer of Haslebere, the said Bampfield escaped from the guard.

3. Information of William Burford assistant to Mr. Greenway grocer of Crewkerne of a charge of shoplifting preferred against Jane Hamlyn of Norton sub Hambdon; given to Thomas Currey 7th April 1659.

4. Confession of the said Jane that she took the goods 'but saith she had no intention to steal the same.'

5. Confession of Mary Fisher concerning her present condition, made to Thomas Currey, 15th Jan. 1658-9.

6. Information of John Royse of Barrington yeoman, taken before George Sampson 8th Dec. 1658; who saith he hath lost a sheep and suspects Anthony Baker of Puckington because his brother William Baker told Mr. Bury of Puckington, for whom they worked, that the said Anthony had bought half a sheep from a butcher of Lamport who had bought a score from John Budd of Barrington. And the said J ohd Budd denies that he sold any sheep.

Also the evidence of Richard Paule of Barrington, Arthur Bury of Puckington, John Budd of Barrington.

7. Confession of Wilmot Pitcher of Merriott concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 15th Nov. 1658.

8. Confession of Elizabeth Tayler of Ile Brewers concerning her present condition, made to George Sampson 27th Dec. 1658.

9. Statement of Richard Morton late of Ilminster, made to George Sampson 8th Feb. 1658-9 ; that twelve months since he left Winneard for Ireland in company with Richard Wagge of East Lambrooke and a young woman who formerly lived with Mr. Wagge minister of East Lambrooke, and on their travels these two did own each other for man and wife.

10. Examination of Richard Guier of Ashill suspected of stealing cheeses from the dairy house of Henry Waldron gent., and a pewter saucer from Alexander Broome yeoman, both of Ashill ; before George Sampson, 26th Feb. and 4th April 1659.

11. Information of William Griffin servant to George Speke of Whitelackington Esq. concerning the loss of five sheep. Obadiah Brooke of Merriott and Henry Porrett of Chesilborough are suspected because in the ground a warrant was found which they had served upon one Withyman of Ilminster. Brooke and Porrett gave unsatisfactory accounts of their movements.

12. Articles exhibited by Richard Trevillian of Midney gent., Joane his daughter, and others, against Joane wife of William Russell of Hambridge for being a common slanderer and a disturber of the peace of her neighbours ; given to George Sampson 4th March 1658-9.

13. List of five persons convicted before John Carye and George Sampson for prophane swearing, amounting in one case to thirty oaths.

14. Complaint of Henry Parsons and Thomas Crocombe of Wellington carpenters against Richard Crocker of Milverton 'hellier' for stealing wood ; made to John Tuberville 20th Feb. 1658-9.

15. Denial of Joane wife of John Hyde of Ilminster that she stole an apron off a hedge belonging to Hannah Combe, or a bag with a peck of wheat from John Greenslade of West Dowlish ; before Henry Bonner and George Sampson, 23rd March 1658-9.

16. Statement by Thomas Clement of Wells that John Crane of Compton Dunden tried to get him to fill up a warrant having

no writ for the same, which he declined to do ; given to William Smith 6th April 1659.

17. Information by John Whitborne minister of Croscombe that George Hicks came into church with his hat on and spake many words very loud and irreverently to the great disturbance of the congregation about the denial of the son of the said George infants baptism ; whereupon he stopped his prayer awhile and said that this did no way savour of the spirit of wisdom or of the fear of the Lord ; and called for an officer to away the said Hicks who continued wording and questioning about Baptism so that the congregation was distressed ; given to William Smith 18th Feb. 1658-9.

18. Information of Valentine Powell of Wells gent. concerning the vulgar and very profane language used by Robert Gough of Cheddar at the Antelope in Wells ; given to William Smith 22nd Jan. 1658-9.

19. Information of Richard Stacey gent of Wells that he suspects John Emblin of Eastwells of stealing two white sheep. Jonas Marlor confessed that the said Emblin came to his house and asked him to go with him to see for some thing, and when he asked him what, Emblin replied 'what shall we famish?' Then they went and killed a sheep and divided the body. Given to William Smith 14th Jan. 1658-9.

20. Confession of Elizabeth Maby of Ditcheat concerning her present condition, made to John Carye 18th Nov. 1658.

21. Confession of Mary Nicholls of Martocke concerning her present condition, made to Edward Sealy 7th July 1658.

22. Confession of Mary Barge of Chedzoy of a rape committed on her ten months since, made to Edward Sealy 12th May 1658.

23. Information by William Isgar of Hampe concerning the loss of poultry found in the house of Elizabeth Nurton widow of North Petherton, given to Edward Sealy 24th May 1658.

24. Elizabeth Nurton is also accused together with Christopher Marks of stealing a sheep from Robert Woodhouse of North Petherton 24th May 1658.

25. Denial of Nurton and Marks of the theft of a sheep.

26. Evidence of Alexander son of Christopher Marks, and of Dorothy daughter of Elizabeth Nurton, tending to show that the two families habitually lived on stolen mutton and poultry.

27. Information of Humfrey Row of Buckland given to Richard Bovett 23rd June 1659, that he suspects Mary Scading of Hennock to have stolen some clothes off his hedge. The said Mary accused Anne Hind of being the actual thief, who denied that she was ever near the garden of the said Row.

28. Information of Hugh Still serge weaver (parish not given) that he has at several times lost yarn which he suspects his servant John King had stolen. Also of his son Hugh and of two women who had received some yarn from the said King; one of whom offered a piece of gold worth five shillings and six pence that the business might be put up; given to Edward Ceely 15th March 1658-9.

29. Examination of Arthur Banger of West Monkton who said that all the wood in his house was taken with the consent of John Woodland; taken before Edward Ceely 4th May 1659.

30. Information of Robert Parsons and Francis Higgins of North Petherton that the wood found in Banger's house was part of nine faggots stolen out of the said Parson's ground; given to Edward Ceely 4th May 1659.

31. Information of William Exon junior of North Petherton, given to Edward Ceely 9th May 1659; that the morrow of Mark's day last was twelve month he found one of his father's lambs dead in Northmore, which he skinned and carried home the skin.

32. Copy of the order made by the Judges of Assize for the suppression of all Ales and Revels, 15th March 1627-8.

33. Confession of Dorothy Drake of Middlezoy concerning her present condition, made to Edward Ceely 20th April 1659.

34. Examination of Elizabeth Calway taken before Edward Ceely 17th January 1658-9. Who saith that yesterday being the first day of the week she did speak these words to Mr. John Glanville minister (of Taunton St. James) that he was a deluding person, and "I am sent from the Lord this day to witness against thy unrighteous deeds," therefore she did exhort the people to repent and fear the Lord. Further evidence by James Standerd and John Barton.

35. Information of John Venyer the younger, George Godfrey, and John Hunt all of North Petherton, bearing out the statement of William Exon (*see* No. 31); given to Edward Ceely 9th May 1659.

36. Information given by Mary Chipper and Frances Bright to William Whitinge mayor of Wells and William Smith 25th June 1659 that John Ridman stole a pail from a coopers standing at Wells fair; but Ridman denied that he ever meddled with it.

37A. Information given to John Gutch 20th April 1659 by Nicholas Roe of Glaston that he charges John Royer with killing a sheep.

37B. Information by Michael Duckett of Wedmore that his covenant servant had run away with some of his goods, which is acknowledged to be true by John Waker the said servant.

38. A presentment to Thomas Curry 9th July 1659 of those cottagers in the tything of Woolmiston who refused to work two days on the highways.

39. Information by Edward Lyte and Francis Arnold of Hatch Beauchamp concerning the incontinent behaviour of John Norris and Hannah Baunton; given to Edward Ceely 10th June 1659.

40A. Information of Ellinor wife of Thomas Hutchins and Katherine wife of Edward Premell of Leigh on Mendip that



James Densly of Holcombe had pilfered certain articles from their houses; given to John Gutch 11th July 1659.

40B. Confession of Katherine Royall of Bruton concerning her present condition, made to John Gutch, 22nd June 1659.

41. Information of Edward Coombe of Winsham that seeing fire coming from the roof of the house of Walter Squibb on Monday night last he called to him of his danger to which he replied "the bull roars and the cow bellows" which was all he could get from him; and he believes that the said Squibb was in drink; given to Thomas Currey 7th May 1659.

42. Information of Samuel Quantock and John Pitt of Norton under Hambdon that of late they have lost sheep out of their grounds, and that they suspect John Salisbury of the same place to have stolen them; further evidence of Thomas Stower, William Hostler, Thomas Hamlyn, and Robert Plowman; given to Thomas Currey, Henry Bonner and George Sampson 3rd May 1659. Also very unsatisfactory explanations by the said Salisbury.

43. Information of William House of Drayton concerning the loss of eleven dragg-tynes worth one shilling; and unsatisfactory examination of Robert Crocker of Curry Rivel who said he never sold any to Richard Poople of Fivehead; before George Sampson 7th June 1659.

44. Information of Thomas Lye of Hurkcott in Ilton and Henry Palmer of Southharpe in South Petherton concerning the loss of sheep; and the confession of Henry Edmonds of Southharpe that he stole the sheep and sold them to William Pitman of Somerton for eight shillings each; given to George Sampson 16th May 1659.

45. Information of George Tatchell tythingman of Kingsbury that in company with Walter Flew constable of Kingsbury Hundred he tried to serve a warrant on Thomas Yeames late at night, but could get no answer though he called: "if thou art a true man open thy door"; given to Henry Bonner and George Sampson 6th May 1659.

46. Articles of the good behaviour against George Keene the younger of Lawrence Liddiard because when there was a meeting appointed by several ministers of the county to preach and teach the word of God in the presence of a very great audience ; the said Keene in contempt and scorne did openly say that if he were sure the church would kindle he would set it on fire when they were in it. With other offensive remarks ; before John Turberville 15th March 1658-9.

47. Information of Charles Parker of Doultong that he found his stolen sheep at West Lydford ; John Pitman of Somerton said he bought them of a stranger ; given to John Carye 10th May 1659.

48. Confession of Susan Ingram late of Combwich concerning her present condition, given to Edward Sealy 31st May 1659.

49. Information of John Morgan of Sully in Glamorgan given to Hugh Gunston mayor of Taunton, that he did steal a silver spoon from his master because he had not enough to eat ; 17th June 1659.

50. Confession of Ann Cox of Puriton concerning her present condition, given to Edward Sealy 30th June 1659.

51. Information of Walter Banwell that John Banwell of Huntspill having given four shillings and a suit of apparell off from his back as a pledge or satisfaction for such things as he was charged with stealing, did steal a suit of clothes of the said Walter and ran away ; given to Edward Sealy, 8th July 1659.

52. The evidence of several women of Winsham concerning the supposed condition of Eleanor Partridge ; given to Henry Bonner 7th June 1659.

53. Information of Symon Spiller and Walter Easton of Yarcombe in Devonshire concerning the incontinent behaviour of John Combe and Jane Mutter of Otterford ; given to Henry Bonner 25th May 1659.

54. Articles of the good behaviour against Thomas Hosgood of Kings Brompton. He had threatened the constable for serving a warrant on him ; is suspecting of breaking open a house ; doth live very idly and seldom work ; and pretending a warranted carried a boy John Grinslade the younger some way to Ilchester illtreating him by the way. Before Thomas Siderfin 19th April 1659.

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*The names of places are arranged under modern spelling according to the Post Office Directory.*

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